ENGLAND DELINEATED; OR, A GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION...

John Aikin

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ENGLAND DELINEATED;

OR, A

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

OF EVERY COUNTY IN

ENGLAND AND WALES:

WITH A CONCISE ACCOUNT OF

ITS MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCTS,

NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL.

FOR THE USE OF YOUNG PERSONS.

With Outline Maps of all the Counties.

FOURTH EDITION,

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED.

Such noble warlike ſteeds, ſuch herds of kine,
So ſleek, ſo vaſt; ſuch ſpacious flocks of ſheep,
What other paradiſe adorn but thine,
Britannia? - - - - - - -
- - - To theſe thy naval ſtreams,
Thy frequent towns ſuperb of buſy trade,
And ports magnific add, and ſtately ſhips
Innumerous. DYER'S FLEECE.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD,

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1800.

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PREFACE.

IT is the principal object of this work to make my young countrymen better acquainted than they are usually found to be with their native land. The utility of such a design will not be questioned. The reasons which induced me to think the present attempt particularly seasonable, and the manner in which I have endeavoured to fulfil my purpose, shall be briefly displayed.

Tours through England, and accounts of English Geography, in various forms, are publications sufficiently common and numerous; and new editions, with alledged improvements, are successively appearing as they are called for; but it will be no breach of critical candour to assert, that they are, for the most part, works of a very low order in literature, abounding with gross faults both of plan and execution. Tedious de-

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ſcriptions of objects, either abſolutely trivial in themſelves, or intereſting only to readers of a particular turn; relations become totally erroneous through length of time, and tranſmitted, unchanged, from one ſucceſſive compilation to another; weak and illiberal partialities, local and national, with inelegancies and vulgariſms of every kind;—theſe are defects from which none of them that I have ſeen can be called tolerably free; and which certainly render them little proper to be put into the hands of youth, and indeed much leſſen their value to readers of all ages. Yet, as books of reference, ſome of them will continue to be uſeful, till a work ſhall be executed which I conſider as one of the greateſt of literary *deſiderata*—an accurate and comprehenſive account of the preſent ſtate of theſe kingdoms, under the ſeveral heads of natural and political hiſtory, agriculture, and commerce. The adequate execution of ſuch a deſign would demand the long-continued labours, not of one man only,

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only, but of ſeveral perſons aſſociated, who ſhould be perfectly qualified for the different departments; and it can never be executed without a liberal public encouragement.

The preſent performance ſcarcely pretends to be an imperfect outline of ſuch a plan. The leading idea purſued in it was, to ſketch out ſuch a general view of each county, with reſpect to its geography, products natural and artificial, commerce, towns, and other principal objects, as might impreſs upon the mind a diſtinct notion of its diſcriminating character and relative conſequence. In doing this, the greateſt difficulty, next to that of collecting proper materials, was to keep a due medium between the meagre unintereſting manner of a catalogue, and ſuch a minuteneſs of detail as would have amplified the work beyond its propoſed limits, and would, if not equally diffuſed through the ſeveral parts, have rendered the whole diſproportionate. How far this point has been attained, the reader muſt determine;

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but few can form an adequate judgment of the difficulty of ſuch a taſk, without actual experience in attempting it.

The *geographical deſcriptions* were purpoſely made ſomewhat diffuſe, that they might ſerve as exerciſes in that very uſeful branch of ſtudy; and therefore ought to be read with a good map in hand.

The ſtate of *cultivation*, *trade*, and *manufactures*, in this kingdom, has undergone ſo many changes, even within a ſhort period, that it was not poſſible to derive from books alone ſuch information as might be depended upon. Therefore, beſides conſulting ſome of the moſt modern tours through particular diſtricts, and hiſtories of particular towns and counties, I thought it neceſſary to apply for written information to perſons reſiding in various parts of the country; and, in conſequence, I have been favoured with a number of communications, eſpecially relative to the ſeveral branches of commerce and ma-

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nufacture, from the moſt reſpectable authorities, which, I flatter myſelf, have enabled me to give more authentic, though conciſe, accounts of a variety of important objects, than have hitherto appeared in print. I cannot, however, but lament that my opportunities for obtaining this beſt kind of information have not been every where alike.

Antiquities I have almoſt entirely paſſed over. The neceſſary details on this ſubject could not poſſibly be brought within the preſcribed limits of this work; and the publications already extant have given much more copious and genuine information on this head than on the preſent circumſtances of things.

For reaſons ſomewhat ſimilar, I have ſcarcely given any notices concerning *family hiſtory*, *noblemen's and gentlemen's ſeats*, *pleaſure grounds*, *proſpects*, and the like.

Wherever a proper occaſion offered, I have been deſirous of introducing *hiſtorical*

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matter of importance, as connected with ſome particular place; in order that, by ſuch an aſſociation, the events might be forcibly impreſſed upon the memory of a young reader. I have, however, taken ſuch facts rather from the later than the earlier periods of our hiſtory, as being better authenticated, and of greater conſequence to us at preſent.

It remains for me to return my beſt thanks o thoſe correſpondents who have favoured me with aſſiſtance in collecting materials for this work. Were I to name them all, the liſt might appear rather a diſplay of oſtentation than of gratitude; nor can I ſuppoſe that they would all chooſe to appear in public as contributors to ſo humble a performance. I ſhall therefore requeſt of them to accept my general acknowledgments. Two names of benefactors I muſt, however, beg leave to particularize—One is that of ROBERT BRANSBY COOPER, Eſq. reſiding at Durſley, to whoſe elegant pen I am indebted for the account, almoſt entirely as it is printed, of the

the county of Glouceſter—the other is that of THOMAS PENNANT, Eſq. a gentleman, who, by his aſſiduous labours, has contributed more than any other perſon, ſince the great *Ray*, to elucidate the zoological part of the natural hiſtory of this country; and has, beſides, in his various tours, made us acquainted with a great number of curious and intereſting particulars of the ancient and modern ſtate of a large part of the kingdom; and, while he has conveyed uſeful information to his readers, has, at the ſame time, laboured to eradicate all mean and ungenerous prejudices and partialities. I have not only borrowed freely from his printed works, but have obtained from his friendſhip the liberal uſe of ſeveral papers which he had collected reſpecting the ſtate of the ſouthern coaſt of this iſland.

JOHN AIKIN.

Great Yarmouth,
Sept. 1, 1788.

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ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE

FOURTH EDITION.

THE printed reports of that moſt uſeful inſtitution the *Board of Agriculture*, have afforded the author an opportunity of correcting and enlarging his deſcription of the general appearance, ſoil, and products, of moſt of the counties, of which, on this republication, he thought he could not, without injuſtice to his work, refuſe to avail himſelf.

J. A.

London,
Sept. 20, 1799.

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INTRODUCTION.

ENGLAND IN GENERAL.

ENGLAND, including *Wales*, is the largeſt and moſt ſouthern part of the iſland of *Great Britain*, which is itſelf the principal of the European iſlands. It is every where ſurrounded by the ſea, except on that part where it joins with a narrow neck to Scotland. Its general figure is triangular, with one point to the north, another to the eaſt, and another to the weſt. Of its three ſides, the weſtern is the longeſt and moſt irregular, being broken and interſected by various points of land, and arms of the ſea. If a ſtraight line be drawn from Berwick upon Tweed to the Land's-end in Cornwall, it will give, for the weſtern ſide, four

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four hundred and twenty-five ſtatute miles. The ſame, drawn from Berwick to the South Foreland in Kent, will give, for the eaſtern ſide, three hundred and forty-five miles: and the triangle completed, by a line from the South Foreland to the Land's-end, will have a ſouthern ſide of three hundred and forty miles. But theſe meaſurements would amount to a great deal more if we were to follow all the windings of the ſea-coaſt.

The face of the country in England affords all that beautiful variety which can be found in the moſt extenſive tracts of the globe. In ſome parts, verdant plains extend far as the eye can reach, watered by copious ſtreams, and covered with innumerable cattle. In others, the pleaſing viciſſitudes of gently-riſing hills and bending vales, fertile in corn, waving with wood, and interſperſed with meadows, offer the moſt delightful landſcapes of rural opulence and beauty. Some tracts abound with

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with proſpects of the more romantic kind; lofty mountains, craggy rocks, deep narrow dells, and tumbling torrents: nor are there wanting, as a contraſt to ſo many agreeable ſcenes, the gloomy features of black barren moors and wide uncultivated heaths. On the whole, however, few countries have a ſmaller proportion of land abſolutely ſteril and incapable of culture.

The richeſt parts of the country are, in general, the midland and ſouthern. Towards the north it partakes of the barrenneſs of the neighbouring Scotland. The eaſtern coaſt is in many parts ſandy and marſhy. To the weſt, the whole country of Wales is a mountainous tract, intermixed indeed with vales of great fertility. Another range of rude and elevated land, ſometimes riſing into lofty mountains, extends from the borders of Scotland to the very heart of England, running perpendicularly from north to ſouth, and forming a natural diviſion between the eaſtern and weſtern

weſtern ſides of the kingdom, during its courſe. The county of Cornwall, too, which, like a great promontory, juts into the Atlantic Ocean, is a rough and hilly tract; and a ſimilar character prevails in parts of the adjacent counties. Theſe mountainous regions, however, contribute greatly to the wealth and advantage of the whole, by the mineral treaſures with which they are amply furniſhed.

The rivers of England are numerous; but the extent of the country will not admit of ſuch a length of courſe as would allow them to vie in greatneſs with the rivers of the continent. Thoſe of the northern parts, ariſing from the middle ridge of hills, have but a ſhort run each way to the ſea. In the midland diſtricts, the *Trent* and *Ouſe* find room for a moderate length of courſe. The *Severn*, in the weſt, ſpringing near the ſea, and taking a large ſemicircular ſweep to reach the ſame ſea again, flows over a ſpace which entitles it to rank at leaſt as the

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the ſecond river of England. The *Thames*, taking its riſe not far from the weſtern ſide, and running acroſs to the eaſtern ſea, gains a greater diſtance from its ſource to its mouth than any of the reſt.

The lakes of England are few and inconſiderable for extent. The principal of them lie in the north-weſtern counties.

Various bays, creeks, and inlets of the ſea are formed all round the coaſt. On the eaſtern ſide, the moſt conſiderable are, the *Humber*, an arm of the ſea into which many rivers pour their ſtreams. Then the *Waſh*, a broad but much ſhallower inlet, the ſands of which are for the moſt part bare at low water. The mouth of the *Thames* next opens into a ſort of funnel, produced by the retiring coaſt of Eſſex on the one hand, and Kent on the other. Then ſucceed the *Straits of Dover*, where this iſland ſo nearly approaches the continent. The *Iſle of Wight*, the harbour of *Portſmouth*, and the creek

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creek running up to *Southampton*, break the regularity of the ſouthern coaſt; which afterwards makes ſeveral bays and ſemicircular ſweeps in its progreſs to the *Land's-end*. On turning to the weſtern ſide, the moſt remarkable of all the inlets, the ſpacious *St. George's*, or *Briſtol channel*, appears, which, with the wide mouth of the Severn, cuts deeply into the broadeſt part of the iſland. The oppoſite *Welſh* coaſt is broken by various bays and indentations; and beyond the next turn of the land ſucceeds the large and deep *bay of Cardigan*. Then the *Iſle of Angleſea* repels the waters of the Iriſh ſea, and gives a new direction to the coaſt, which, running inwards, forms a kind of vaſt bay with the *Lancaſhire* and *Cumberland* coaſts, into which ſeveral broad and ſhallow mouths of rivers enter, and which is protected to the ſeaward by the *Iſle of Man*. *Solway frith* terminates the Engliſh coaſt, and forms a natural boundary on part of the Scotch border, which the *Cheviot-hills* and the *Tweed* nearly complete.

With

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With reſpect to *climate*, England is ſituated in the northern part of the temperate zone, ſo that it enjoys but a ſcanty ſhare of the genial influence of the ſun. Its atmoſphere is inclined to chilneſs and moiſture, ſubject to frequent and ſudden changes; and is more favourable to the growth, than to the ripening, of the products of the earth. No country is cloathed with a more beautiful and laſting verdure; but the harveſts, eſpecially in the northern parts, frequently ſuffer from unſeaſonable rains; and the fruits often fall ſhort of their perfect maturity. The rigours of winter, however, as well as the parching heats of ſummer, are felt here in a much leſs degree than in parallel climates on the continent; a circumſtance common to all iſlands. While the ſea-ports in Holland and Germany are every winter locked up with ice, thoſe of England, and even of Scotland, are never known to ſuffer this inconvenience. The weſtern ſide of the kingdom, receiving firſt the great clouds from the Atlantic Ocean, which are

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afterwards intercepted in their paſſage by the middle ridge of hills, is conſiderably more expoſed to rain than the eaſtern; but the latter is more frequently involved in fogs and miſts. The whole country, ſome particular ſpots excepted, is ſufficiently healthy; and the natural longevity of its inhabitants is equal to that of almoſt any region.

All the moſt valuable productions, both animal and vegetable, of this country, have been imported from the continent, and have been kept up and improved by conſtant attention. Originally, this great iſland ſeems to have been, like the wilds of America, almoſt entirely over-run with wood, and peopled only by the inhabitants of the foreſt. Here formerly roamed the bear, the wolf, and the wild boar, now totally extirpated. Large herds of ſtags ranged through the woods, roebucks bounded over the hills, and wild bulls grazed in the marſhy paſtures. By degrees, the woods were deſtroyed,

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ſtroyed, in order to make way for cultivation; the marſhes were drained; and the wild animals, invaded in their retreats, gradually diſappeared, and their places were ſupplied by the domeſtic kinds. England now poſſeſſes no other wild quadrupeds than ſome of the ſmaller kinds; ſuch as the fox, the wild cat, the badger, the martin, and others of the weaſel kind; the otter, the hedgehog, the hare and rabbit; the ſquirrel, dormouſe, mole, and ſeveral ſpecies of the rat and mouſe. On the other hand, every kind of domeſtic animal, imported from abroad, has here been reared to the greateſt degree of perfection. The horſe has been trained up for all the various purpoſes of ſtrength and ſwiftneſs, ſo as to excel in thoſe qualities the ſame animal in every other country. The horned cattle have been brought to the largeſt ſize and greateſt juſtneſs of ſhape. The different races of ſheep in England are variouſly diſtinguiſhed, either for uncommon ſize, goodneſs of fleſh, and plenty or fineneſs of wool. The deer

of our parks, which are originally a foreign breed, are ſuperior in beauty of ſkin and delicacy of fleſh to thoſe of moſt countries. Even the ſeveral kinds of dogs have been trained to degrees of courage, ſtrength, and ſagacity, rarely to be met with elſewhere.

The improvement in the vegetable productſ of this iſland is not leſs ſtriking than in the animal. Nuts, acorns, crabs, and a few wild berries, were almoſt all the variety of vegetable food which our woods could boaſt. To foreign countries, and to the efforts of culture, we are indebted for our bread, the roots and greens of our tables, and all our garden fruits. The barley and hops for our malt liquors, and the apples for our cyder, are equally the gifts of other lands. The meaneſt labourer now is fed with more wholeſome and delicate aliments than the petty kings of the country could obtain in its ſavage and uncultivated ſtate.

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The rivers and ſeas of England are ſtocked with a great variety of fiſh, which yield a plentiful article of proviſion. The river fiſh, indeed, from the populouſneſs of the country, and the number of fiſhers, are in many parts much diminiſhed. But the ſea is an inexhauſtible ſource; and every exertion of induſtry, to procure food from thence, is amply repaid. The fiſheries are at preſent a great object of attention; and the whole ſeacoaſt is enlivened by numerous inhabitants, who gain their chief ſubſiſtence from the deep.

Such, in general, is the country which we inhabit; ſufficiently favoured by nature, yet greatly indebted alſo to induſtry; for, if this powerful ſpring were to ſlacken, the wild wood, the tangled thicket, and the pathleſs moraſs, would again cover the land, and it would become a fit reſidence only for the ſavage beaſts, and the hunter not leſs ſavage.

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We now proceed to the particular conſideration of thoſe principal diviſions into which civil policy has diſtributed the kingdom. Theſe are the *counties* or *ſhires*; of which England, properly ſo called, contains forty, and Wales twelve. The order in which theſe are given is a matter of no great conſequence; but as one muſt be adopted in preference to others, I have choſen a geographical arrangement, as beſt ſuited to the intention of the work, and the manner in which the ſubjects are treated.

THE

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THE

COUNTIES

OF

ENGLAND AND WALES

ARRANGED.

Six Northern;	Northumberland, Cumberland, Durham, Yorkſhire, Weſtmoreland, Lancaſhire.
Four bordering on Wales;	Cheſhire, Shropſhire, Herefordſhire, Monmouthſhire.

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Twelve Midland;
- Nottinghamſhire,
- Derbyſhire,
- Staffordſhire,
- Leiceſterſhire,
- Rutlandſhire,
- Northamptonſhire,
- Warwickſhire,
- Worceſterſhire,
- Glouceſterſhire,
- Oxfordſhire,
- Buckinghamſhire,
- Bedfordſhire.

Eight Eaſtern;
- Lincolnſhire,
- Huntingdonſhire,
- Cambridgeſhire,
- Norfolk,
- Suffolk,
- Eſſex,
- Hertfordſhire,
- Middleſex.

Three

Three South-eaſtern; { Surry, Kent, Suſſex.

Four Southern; { Berkſhire, Wiltſhire, Hampſhire, Dorſetſhire.

Three South-weſtern; { Somerſetſhire, Devonſhire, Cornwall.

Six North-Wales; { Flintſhire, Denbighſhire, Caernarvonſhire, Angleſey, Merionethſhire, Montgomeryſhire.

Six

Six South-Wales;	Radnorſhire, Cardiganſhire, Pembrokeſhire, Caermarthenſhire, Brecknockſhire, Glamorganſhire.

ENGLAND

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ENGLAND DELINEATED.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

THIS is the moſt northerly county in England, and, by its termination in a ſharp point, forms a regular angle for the boundary of the kingdom on this ſide. The county is of a triangular figure, its eaſtern ſide leaning on the ocean; its weſtern joining to Scotland and Cumberland; and its ſouthern bordering with a more irregular line on Cumberland and Durham. Its natural boundaries are in moſt parts mountains or rivers. For ſize it is among the largeſt, its greateſt length being near ſeventy miles, and its breadth, at the ſouthern extremity, above forty.

The face of the country in this large tract is various, but on the whole inclining to nakedneſs and ſterility. The mountainous diſtricts

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tricts abſolutely unfit for tillage compriſe more than a third of the land. The moſt fertile tracts are on the eaſtern ſide, in the vales through which the rivers run in their courſe to the ſea. Many of theſe are very fruitful in corn and paſture. The vale of Cocquet is particularly noted for its fertility, and produces turnips and clover in perfection. Woods are chiefly confined to the banks of rivers, but new plantations are riſing in various parts of the county. The ſouth-weſtern angle is an extremely dreary and barren tract, though rendered valuable by its lead mines. To the north of this are ſome fertile dales around the hilly regions; but the country about *Readſdale* is ſo boggy as to be almoſt an impaſſable deſert. The *Cheviot Hills*, near the northern angle, are the moſt valuable of the mountainous tracts, being in general fine green hills, thrown into a great variety of forms, whoſe ſloping verdant ſides encloſe many narrow deep glens. No mineral is found in them except granite or whinſtone, of which the mountains are chiefly

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chiefly compoſed. Theſe hills feed abundance of ſheep of a peculiar breed: goats alſo are kept among them, and they abound in grouſe. The ſtate of the poor ſhepherds is as miſerable as that of human creatures can well be; and the country has been greatly depopulated by the practice of throwing many ſmall farms into ſingle ones of vaſt extent, conſiſting either of wide ſheep-walks, or immenſe corn fields. Some of the fineſt cattle in the kingdom are, however, fed in parts of the Scotch border. The central part of the country riſes in rocky hills of no great height, but ſtretching into melancholy waſtes.

The principal river of Northumberland is the *Tyne*, formed of a ſouthern branch, coming out of Durham, and a northern one from the hills on the border: theſe, uniting a little above Hexham, form a large river, which, flowing on to Newcaſtle, empties itſelf into the ſea at Tinmouth. A great quantity of water comes down theſe ſtreams, which

which frequently occaſions terrible inundations.

The centre of the country is croſſed by the river *Cocquet*, which joins the ſea at Warkworth, celebrated for its ancient caſtle and hermitage.

The *Tweed*, after dividing Northumberland from Scotland for a conſiderable ſpace, and receiving the *Till*, which waters the northern angle of the county, at laſt turns ſhort acroſs the extreme point to Berwick, and there mixes with the ſea. We ſhall hence begin to trace the coaſt.

The town of *Berwick upon Tweed* was once a very ſtrong fortreſs, and of the greateſt importance when England and Scotland were two hoſtile nations, to each of which it alternately belonged, or was conſidered as a diſtrict ſeparate from both countries. It has now happily loſt its conſequence, though ſtill fortified; and is chiefly remarkable for its great ſalmon fiſhery, which furniſhes it with a valuable object of exportation. It

alſo

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alſo exports corn, wool, and a prodigious number of eggs, which are ſent to London for the uſe of the ſugar-refiners. It has a ſmall importation of timber from Norway and the Baltic.

Southwards, near the ſhore, lies *Holy-iſland* or *Lindisfarn*, once the ſee of a biſhop, and ſtill diſtinguiſhed by the ruins of its cathedral. It is inhabited by a few fiſhermen.

The next object worthy notice is *Bamborough Caſtle*, ſituated on a promontory, once of great ſtrength, but now remarkable for the humane purpoſe to which it is applied in conſequence of a bequeſt of lord Crew, biſhop of Durham; namely, the reception and relief of ſhipwrecked mariners.

Nearly oppoſite to this lies a group of rocky iſlets, called the *Farn iſles*, the reſort of multitudes of ſea-fowl in the breeding ſeaſon, particularly of the Eider duck, from which the ſofteſt and lighteſt down is procured.

Conſiderably farther to the ſouth, off the mouth

mouth of the *Cocquet*, is ſituated a little iſland of the ſame name.

At the mouth of the river flowing down from Morpeth, called *Cammas water*, is a ſmall port from which corn and grindſtones are exported.

At *Blyth* is another creek, forming a port, whence are ſent coals and ſalt; and a little ſouthward, near Seaton Delaval, an artificial harbour has been made, called *Hartley-haven*, whence the ſame commodities, together with glaſs and copperas, are exported.

The mouth of the Tyne ſucceeds; the great inlet and outlet of this part of the country. Juſt within it, on the Northumberland ſide, is *North Shields*, a very populous but dirty place, inhabited by ſailors, carpenters, and other artificers concerned in the ſhipping buſineſs. Veſſels of large burthen take in their ladings at this part of the river.

The Tyne flows broad and moderately deep to the large and populous town of *Newcaſtle*, ſituated in the centre of the great collieries,

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collieries, which have for centuries ſupplied London, all the eaſtern, and moſt of the midland and ſouthern parts of the kingdom, with coals. This traffic has been the ſource of great opulence to Newcaſtle; which, beſides, exports large quantities of lead, ſalt, ſalmon, butter, tallow, and grindſtones; and imports wine, and fruit from the ſouth of Europe, and timber, iron, hemp, &c. from the Baltic and Norway. Ships are ſent from hence to the Greenland fiſhery. It likewiſe poſſeſſes manufactories of ſteel and iron, and of woollen cloth; and in the town and neighbourhood are ſeveral glaſs-houſes, and potteries. The ſtreets in the old part of Newcaſtle are unſightly and narrow, and the buildings greatly crowded together; but ſome of the newer parts are handſome and commodious. The ſuburbs are chiefly inhabited by keelmen; a rough and ſturdy race, employed in carrying the coals down the river in their keels, or lighters, to the large ſhips.

At this town terminated the ancient *Pict's*

or *Roman wall*, which ſtretched acroſs the iſland to Carliſle, and was intended to keep off the incurſions of the fierce northern tribes.

The vale in which the Tyne here flows is very fertile and beautiful. At ſome diſtance up it is *Hexham*, a town noted for its manufactory of tanned leather, ſhoes, and gloves. Near this place, in 1463, was fought a very bloody battle between the parties of York and Lancaſter, in which the latter was defeated.

The county town of Northumberland is *Alnwick*, upon the little river *Alne*, north of the Cocquet. It is a place of ſmall conſequence, chiefly noted for its princely manſion of the Percies, from ancient times the great feudal lords of this part of the kingdom.

Numerous ruined caſtles ſcattered over this county ſtrongly mark the ſtate of mutual dread and hoſtility, in which the Engliſh and Scotch borderers lived before the happy union of the two kingdoms under one head. Many bloody conflicts aroſe from the

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the plundering incurſions continually made on both ſides, in which vaſt tracts of country were laid deſolate with all the circumſtances of ſavage ferocity; and, in the more important expeditions, not a town eſcaped from occaſionally undergoing the ravages of fire and ſword. Among the pitched battles fought in this county, none were ſo conſiderable as that of *Halidown-hill*, near Berwick, in 1333, in which Edward III. defeated the Scots with great ſlaughter; and that of *Floddon*, on the banks of the Till, where the Earl of Surry, in 1513, totally routed the Scots, who loſt in the conflict their valiant king James IV.

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CUMBERLAND.

THIS county borders to the north upon Scotland, from which it is ſeparated towards the ſea by Solway-frith, and internally, for the moſt part, by a ſmall brook: on the weſt, it is bounded by the Iriſh ſea, into which it projects with a convexity like a long hooked beak, the point of which deſcends to the detached part of Lancaſhire; from hence its ſouthern concave line runs contiguous, firſt to the ſmall portion of Lancaſhire, and then to the whole breadth of Weſtmoreland: the eaſtern ſide is bounded by the counties of Northumberland and Durham. Cumberland is a county of conſiderable ſize, ſtretching, from its ſouthern point to its north-eaſtern, almoſt eighty miles, and its greateſt breadth being forty miles, though this is only in a ſmall part. It is, however, one of the leaſt populous in the kingdom, its general character being that of a country of bleak mountains, naked moors, and wild waſtes,

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waſtes, rich indeed in mineral treaſures, but in great part unfit for the cultivator. Of the mountainous diſtricts are two diviſions; one, the continuation of that ridge which ſeparates the eaſtern from the weſtern ſides of the north of England, and runs between this county and Durham and Northumberland. Theſe mountains are compoſed of ſtrata of various kinds of ſtone, and are rich in coal, limeſtone, and lead. They are of a high elevation, but afford no ſtriking irregularities of ſurface. The other mountainous diſtrict occupies the ſouth-weſtern part of the county, forming high, ſteep, and craggy hills of romantic ſhapes, which are generally a maſs of that ſtone which yields the beautiful blue ſlate uſed for covering houſes. The only other mineral they afford is that rare and valuable ſubſtance, *wad*, or black-lead, the fineſt kind of which is met with abundantly in *Borrowdale*.' Its mines are opened only at certain intervals, and then carefully cloſed again, leſt it ſhould become too common.

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The cultivated parts of Cumberland produce ſome corn, but are chiefly devoted to grazing. The neat cattle of the country are a ſmall breed with long horns, of which numbers are reared, and ſold to drovers, who bring them ſouthwards to fatten under the name of Cumberland ſteers. The dairies produce a good deal of butter for exportation. A breed of ſmall ſheep with coarſe wool, but excellent fleſh, abounds on the hills.

Cumberland, with its neighbour Weſtmoreland, poſſeſſes more lakes than any other part of the kingdom. Of theſe one of the moſt beautiful is that of *Derwentwater*, in the *vale of Keſwick*, a ſpot which has lately become a frequent object of curioſity to travellers. To the north of this romantic piece of water ſoars the lofty mountain *Skiddaw*, one of the moſt diſtinguiſhed in England, and the haunt of eagles and other birds of prey.

The principal river of this county is the *Eden*, which, coming from Weſtmoreland, meets,

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meets, on its arrival at the border of Cumberland, with the *Eymot*, flowing out of *Ulles-lake*, and then runs northwards, till, on receiving the *Irthing* from the eaſt, it turns ſhort to Carliſle, below which, after being joined by the *Petterel* and other rivulets, it empties into Solway-frith. This river, as well as others in the county, is plentifully ſtored with ſalmon.

The *Derwent*, riſing in Borrowdale, flows firſt through the lake to which it gives name, and then through that of *Baſſingthwaite*, whence it turns to Cockermouth, and enters the ſea near Workington.

We ſhall now trace the ſea coaſt, beginning from its ſouthern point.

Ravenglaſs firſt offers its ſmall port, ſituated on a creek:

Then, after paſſing the mouths of two or three rivulets, ſucceeds *St. Bees-head*, a promontory noted for the reſort of ſea-fowl. Its ſmall town is diſtinguiſhed by a ſeminary of learning, much frequented by the youth of the ſurrounding country.

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A little beyond, on a ſmall bay ſurrounded with naked hills, is *Whitehaven*, a large handſome town, and a port of very conſiderable commerce, though entirely of modern date. Its great ſource of traffic is in the collieries ſituated in its vicinity, which are ſome of the largeſt and moſt remarkable in the kingdom, being wrought to ſome diſtance under the bed of the ſea. Much of the coal is exported to Ireland and other parts. The town has alſo a trade to the Weſt Indies.

Somewhat further north is *Workington*, a port from whence a large quantity of coal is exported. This was the landing-place of the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots, when ſhe was driven to take refuge in the dominions of her inſidious rival, Elizabeth. In the neighbourhood of Workington is a large iron foundry; and at ſome diſtance up the river, at the conflux of the Cocker with the Derwent, is *Cockermouth*, a populous town, thriving by its manufactories of ſhalloons, worſted ſtockings, and hats.

Further

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Further along the coaſt lies *Maryport*, a new town raiſed by the coal trade, at the mouth of the little river Eln.

The coaſt is at length terminated by the inlet of *Moricambe*, at the entrance of Solway-frith. At *Burgh-upon-ſands*, on this latter arm of the ſea, died, in 1307, the great and victorious king Edward I. as he was preparing for an expedition againſt Scotland.

Carliſle, the capital of the county, is an ancient city, walled round, and very pleaſantly ſituated above a rich tract of meadows bordering the Eden, and two other rivers which here join it. It has a conſiderable manufactory of printed linens, checks, and cotton goods, and is alſo noted for the making of whips and fiſh-hooks. Its population has doubled within 30 or 40 years paſt. Its fortifications, inſignificant as they are, cauſed it to be the ſubject of two trifling ſieges in the laſt civil war which infeſted this country, the rebellion of 1745.

Beyond Carliſle, near the river Eſk, on the

the Scotch border, is *Solway-moſs*, a large black moraſs, which, in the year 1771, being ſwoln by rains, burſt through the ſhell of turf which covers it, and ſpread an inky half-fluid deluge over four hundred acres of cultivated land in the neighbouring valley, which it entirely filled up.

Penrith, an inland town on the borders of Weſtmoreland, is a great thoroughfare, and a market town of ſome conſequence. A caſtle and ſeveral remains of antiquity are ſeen in its neighbourhood.

DURHAM.

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DURHAM.

THIS county has uſually been termed *the Biſhoprick*, on account of the great powers formerly poſſeſſed by the biſhop of the dioceſe, who was ſaid to have all the authority in Durham that the king exerciſed elſewhere. Theſe privileges, though much abridged, are ſtill conſiderable, the biſhop acting as lord-lieutenant of the county, and having the appointment of the high ſheriff. A third part of the county is ſuppoſed to be of eccleſiaſtical tenure.

Durham is of a triangular figure; its eaſtern or ſhorteſt ſide compoſed of ſea-coaſt, and the two others running obliquely inland, till they meet in a point on the confines of Cumberland. Northumberland lies to the north of it, ſeparated in part by the rivers Tyne and Derwent: Cumberland, to the weſt, ſeparated by barren hills and moors; and all its ſouthern boundary is formed

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formed by the Tees, by which it is parted from Yorkſhire. Its greateſt length is about thirty-five miles, and its extreme breadth above forty-five.

The internal or weſtern angle of this county is in general a mountainous, naked, and barren region, being croſſed by that ridge of hills which has not unaptly been called *the Apennines of England*, though none of them here riſe to any conſiderable height. It is, however, enriched by mines of lead and iron; and the mineral tract continues along the northern ſide of the county, till it terminates with the great beds of coal which are found between the lower parts of the Tyne and Were. Coals are alſo met with on the ſouthern ſide. Quarries of the moſt uſeful kinds of ſtone are common, and the famous Newcaſtle grindſtones are the product of this county. The eaſtern and middle parts of Durham are for the moſt part fertile and agreeable, varied with hill and dale, arable and paſturage. It abounds in cattle, numbers of which are ſent to the more

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more ſouthern counties. The Tees-water bull and ram are both very fine animals of their ſpecies. The cattle are large, ſhort-horned, and reckoned equal in their produce of milk and quickneſs of fattening to almoſt any breed in the kingdom. Of ſheep, there are both the large long-wooled, and the ſmall fine-wooled kinds.

Of its rivers, the *Derwent* may firſt be mentioned, which, riſing near the wild borders of Northumberland, makes the boundary of the two counties for ſome ſpace; then, croſſing a corner of Durham, makes its way through a beautifully romantic tract to the Tyne, which it joins a little above Newcaſtle. On and near its banks towards its termination are ſome capital iron works, where the ore is ſmelted, and the metal caſt and wrought into various maſſy articles.

Through the midſt of the county winds a beautiful river, the *Were*, which riſes juſt in the weſtern angle, and receiving numerous tributary rills from the mountains, takes its courſe

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courſe along a fine valley, by the city of Durham, to the ſea below Sunderland.

The *Tees* riſes very near the ſource of the Were, and runs a winding courſe, of about equal length, to the ſea, which it enters with a broad mouth below Stockton. By its means the lead and corn of the county find a conveyance for exportation. The banks of both theſe rivers are rendered buſy and populous by a variety of works, as breweries, corn and paper mills, forges, and the like. In many parts, they, as well as the other ſtreams, are fringed with wood of conſiderable growth and value.

The ancient city of *Durham*, the capital of the county, and the ſeat of the richly beneficed clergy of its ſee, and of many of the neighbouring gentry, is a conſiderable place, irregularly built on a beautiful winding of the Were, whoſe banks are covered with woods, and edged with lofty crags. The cathedral is a large and magnificent edifice; the buildings of the city in general

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ral old. Durham poſſeſſes a manufactory of woollen goods, ſuch as ſhalloons, tammies, flannels, and carpets: around it are grown large quantities of the beſt muſtard, which yields very profitable crops. *Nevil's-Croſs*, near this city, was erected in memory of a great victory obtained under the auſpices of Philippa, queen of Edward III. in 1346, over David Bruce, king of Scotland, who was taken priſoner in the action with many of his nobles.

Ten miles above Durham, on a high winding bank of the Were, is *Biſhop-Aukland*, a neat market town, diſtinguiſhed by the magnificent ſummer-palace, and beautiful park, of the Biſhop. It has a cotton manufactory.

Cheſter-le-ſtreet, on the Were, below Durham, has a capital iron foundery; and at *Birtley*, in its neighbourhood, is a remarkable ſalt ſpring, riſing at a great depth in the earth, and yielding a large quantity of excellent ſalt.

At the mouth of the Tyne, on the Dur-

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ham ſide, lies the conſiderable and populous village of *South-Shields*, which participates in the trade of Newcaſtle, many of the largeſt colliers loading there. Many ſhips are built at this place, and belong to it. There are alſo here ſalt-works (now declined in buſineſs) and glaſs-houſes.

Proceeding along the coaſt, *Sunderland* ſucceeds, a large and thriving town, which for the exportation of coals is next in conſequence, on this ſide of the kingdom, to Newcaſtle. Its port, on the mouth of the Were, though improved from its former ſtate, will not admit the largeſt ſhips: but veſſels can get out to ſea from hence much more readily than from the Tyne. The coals are brought down the Were from numerous pits near its banks. There are ſeveral glaſs-houſes at Sunderland; and it alſo exports grindſtones and other articles. *Biſhop's Weremouth*, almoſt adjoining to it, has a manufactory of ſail cloth. The whole circumjacent country is very populous. An iron bridge has lately been thrown over the Were

Were at its mouth, which is one of the wonders of modern mechaniſm. It conſiſts of a ſingle arch, which ſpans 236 feet, and riſes at its centre 100 feet above high-water mark, ſo that large veſſels can ſail under it without lowering their top-maſts.

The coaſt ſouthwards from hence is rocky, and broken into deep caverns. The next port is *Hartlepool*, ſituated upon a little hook of land, forming within a ſafe harbour, the refuge of ſhips in ſtorms and contrary winds. Its own trade is not conſiderable, chiefly conſiſting of the fiſhery, and the export of lime, of which great quantities are burnt at the back of the town.

The Tees has no port at its mouth; but at ſome diſtance up the river is *Stockton*, a handſome flouriſhing town, which has a large manufactory of ſail cloth. Goods are imported here for the ſurrounding country; and the lead and corn, ſent down the river from the interior parts, are exported by commiſſion.

Darlington, in the ſouthern part of the

county, has long been noted for the manufacture of the table and napkin linen called huckabacks. It is party made from Engliſh flax from the ſouth of Yorkſhire, and partly from foreign, imported at Stockton. Moſt of it goes to London by ſea. This town has alſo a thriving manufactory of woollen ſtuffs, or camlets, made chiefly from the wool of the neighbourhood: theſe are likewiſe principally ſent to London. Some ſmall wares of the Mancheſter kind are alſo made here; and there is a conſiderable trade in dreſſing leather. A curious water machine for grinding optical glaſſes, and for ſpinning linen yarn, has lately been erected here, the invention of a native of the town.

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YORKSHIRE.

THIS county, double in ſize to any other in England, is bounded on the north by Durham and Weſtmoreland; on the eaſt by the German ocean; on the weſt by Weſtmoreland and Lancaſhire; and on the ſouth by the counties of Cheſter, Derby, Nottingham, and Lincoln. Its moſt remarkable natural inland boundaries are, the river Tees to the north, the ridge of hills called the Engliſh Apennines to the weſt, and the arm of the ſea named the Humber to the ſouth-eaſt. The length of this county is above eighty miles, and its breadth an hundred. From its great extent it has been diſtributed into three main diviſions, called *Ridings*. Of theſe the North Riding comprehends the whole northern part from ſide to ſide, deſcending to the capital in the centre: the Eaſt Riding takes the ſouth-eaſtern part, from the river Ouſe to the ſea; and the

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Weſt Riding compriſes all the reſt of the county, which is not only the weſtern, but moſt of the ſouthern part.

Yorkſhire, in this wide compaſs, contains an abſtract of the whole kingdom with reſpect to ſoil, products, and face of country. Towards the north-weſt and weſt it poſſeſſes all the grandeur and romantic variety of the mountainous regions. The middle part, from north to ſouth, is equal in fertility to moſt tracts of land in England. Part of the ſouth and ſouth-eaſt is marſhy, and affords excellent paſturage for cattle. Much flax is grown in parts of this diſtrict. The ſea-coaſt, except the ſouthern part of it, is in general naked and dreary, conſiſting of wide extended moors and barren hills.

This county is extremely well watered, and its rivers are diſpoſed in a ſingularly beautiful manner. They riſe, in general, in the mountainous ſkirts of the county, from the north-eaſt round to the ſouth-weſt; and, uniting as they proceed towards its centre, like the veins of a ſpreading leaf, at length terminate

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terminate in one main trunk, which iſſues in the *Humber*. Of theſe the principal, and that which alone preſerves its name to the Humber, is the *Northern Ouſe*. The parents of this river are the *Ure* and *Swale*, riſing near each other in the romantic borders of Weſtmoreland. Theſe, after collecting all the rills from this mountainous region, unite at Aldborough, and from thence take the name of the Ouſe, which now forms a large river. It flows through York, where it is navigable for conſiderable veſſels; and afterwards receives the *Wharf*, coming down from the north-weſt: then the *Derwent*, loaded with all the ſtreams from the north-eaſt; and, laſtly, the *Aire*, formed by the united Aire and *Calder* from the weſt, and joined near its termination in the Ouſe by the *Dun* and its tributary ſtreams, from the ſouth-weſt. By this diſpoſition, as far as theſe rivers can be made navigable, all the parts of this extenſive county enjoy an intercourſe with each other, and with the ſea.

In deſcribing the objects chiefly worthy of

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notice in this county, I ſhall begin by tracing the ſea-coaſt.

From the mouth of the Tees the Yorkſhire coaſt commences high and rude, interſperſed with many fiſhing villages, ſingularly placed like neſts upon the ledges of the rocks. No coaſt in England abounds more in fiſh of various kinds than this; and it breeds an induſtrious and hardy race of fiſhermen, who purſue their prey to great diſtances, and ſupply the inland country for a large extent. The diſtrict of *Cleveland*, inland from the river Tees and the northern part of the coaſt, is a fertile, though hilly, country, grows much corn, and breeds great numbers of cattle.

Whitby, the fartheſt port in this county to the north, is a conſiderable town, which has a great traffic in the building of ſhips, and the carrying buſineſs. Its harbour is the beſt on this coaſt, and is protected by a fine pier; but it has no river-communication with the inland country. Several ſhips are ſent from hence to the Greenland fiſhery.

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This place had the honour of initiating in his profeſſion the greateſt navigator that the world ever ſaw—the late much-lamented Captain Cook.

In the neighbourhood of Whitby are large works, in which alum is procured from a kind of ſlate. There is one of theſe works alſo at *Guiſborough* in Cleveland. The country inland from this part of the coaſt to a great extent is called the eaſtern moorlands, a wild mountainous tract, chiefly compoſed of a barren gritſtone.

Robinhood's bay, noted for fiſhing, ſucceeds; and next *Scarborough*, a large town, built on a rocky eminence, well known as a place for ſea bathing. It poſſeſſes a conſiderable ſhipping trade, and is much engaged in the fiſheries.

A remarkable promontory, called *Flamborough-head*, is the next diſtinguiſhed object, whoſe lofty ſnow-white cliffs are ſeen far out at ſea, and ſerve for a direction to ſhips. Its rocks are occupied by numberleſs multitudes of ſea fowl of various kinds,

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which fill the air and ocean all around. Inland from Flamborough begins an elevated tract of country called the *wolds*, which widening as it proceeds, extends at laſt from Malton almoſt to the Humber. It is a cold and dry diſtrict, abounding in ſheep, and productive of corn. Immediately ſouth of the Head begins *Bridlington* or *Burlington bay*, a place of refuge for the coaſting veſſels. It has a village called *Burlington quay*, where ſhips load and unload. This place is much frequented for ſea bathing. From hence the coaſt runs low and unvaried to the *Spurnhead*, a long ſickle-ſhaped promontory, guarding the mouth of the Humber.

Turning up this large arm of the ſea, we come to the great port of *Hull*, or *Kingſton upon Hull*, the rivulet upon which it is ſituated. This is a fortified town, and was the firſt that ſhut its gates againſt Charles I. but its fortifications are now inconſiderable, while its commerce has gone on increaſing, ſo as to render it probably the fourth port for buſineſs in the kingdom. Its ſituation

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is extremely advantageous; for, beſides its communication with the Yorkſhire rivers and canals, it has alſo acceſs, by means of the Humber, to the Trent and all its branches and communications, now greatly increaſed by navigable canals: hence it has the import and export trade of many of the northern and midland counties. The foreign trade is chiefly to the Baltic; but it has alſo regular traffic with the ſouthern parts of Europe and with America. More ſhips are ſent from hence to Greenland than from any other port, that of London excepted. The coaſting trade, for coals, corn, wool, manufactured goods, &c. is very extenſive. The harbour of Hull is artificial, conſiſting of a dock, ſaid to be the largeſt in the kingdom, with which the river communicates. The conſtruction of a new dock is now in contemplation.

The country to the north and eaſt of Hull, called *Holderneſs*, is in general a flat tract of land, with a very rich ſoil, and is remarkable for its large breeds of horned cattle

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cattle and horſes. The town of *Beverley*, in this diſtrict, is a neat well-built place, poſſeſſed of a fine ancient minſter.

The city of *York* has always been conſidered as the capital of the north, and in point of rank, as the ſecond in the kingdom; and, though it is now left behind in wealth and populouſneſs by many of the newer trading towns, it ſtill ſupports a conſiderable degree of conſequence, and is inhabited by many genteel families. Its minſter is reckoned the moſt elegant and magnificent gothic ſtructure in the kingdom, Lincoln perhaps excepted. From its top is ſeen a vaſt extent of country, particularly the open Wolds to the eaſt, ſtretching almoſt to the ſea. A ſandy fertile vale extends from the eaſt of York ſeveral miles, in a north-weſterly direction on the courſe of the Ouſe and Swale. The races at York have been much frequented as well as thoſe at Doncaſter and other places in this county, which is celebrated for its fine breeds of horſes of the race and hunting kinds, as well as for the knowledge

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knowledge of the inhabitants in all the arts of jockeyſhip.

Aſcending the Ouſe, to the Ure, we come to *Rippon*, which had once a manufactory of hardware, now almoſt extinct. It is chiefly remarkable at preſent for its market of corn and butter. Rippon has an ancient minſter.

The ſources of the Ure and the Swale are in the diſtrict called *Richmondſhire*, formerly a county of itſelf; a region abounding in romantic ſituations, and noted for the neatneſs and induſtry of its inhabitants, who manufacture knit ſtockings and other coarſe goods. Many lead mines are wrought in theſe parts. The hilly tracts are generally known under the name of the weſtern moorlands. A great number of ſmall hardy horſes are bred among them. Of the vales by which they are interſected, Wenſley-dale, through which the Ure flows, is moſt diſtinguiſhed for its beauty and fertility.

Southward from hence lies the wide diſtrict of *Craven*, an open and hilly country, famous for breeding and feeding great numbers

bers of cattle. Two of the higheſt hills in England, *Ingleborough* and *Whernſide*, are in this tract. The country about *Settle* is noted, among botaniſts, for the variety of curious and uncommon plants among its rocky ſcars.

The weſtern ſide of Craven abounds with limeſtone, which is not to be found ſouthwards between this diſtrict and ſeveral miles within Derbyſhire. A ſtripe of limeſtone, about five or ſix miles broad, traverſes Yorkſhire from north to ſouth, leaving the high barren moors of Black Hamilton to the eaſt, and Knareſborough foreſt to the weſt, paſſing on the weſtern ſide of Tadcaſter, and after leaving Doncaſter two or three miles on the eaſt, proceeding onward into Nottinghamſhire. Botaniſts know when they are within a mile of this ſtripe by ſeveral plants not found on grit-ſtone.

Eaſt of Craven lies that ſterile tract, now indeed moſtly encloſed, called *Knareſborough foreſt*. Its inhabitants are chiefly employed in manufacturing coarſe linen cloths, ſuch as huckabacks

huckabacks and ſheeting, which they carry to Knareſborough market. This town has fine remains of an ancient caſtle, which, with the Foreſt, are part of the eſtates of the Dutchy of Lancaſter. There are ſeveral very peculiar cuſtoms among the laws of the Foreſt.

Below Craven commences the *clothing country*, the great ſcene of the induſtry, wealth, and populouſneſs, of the Weſt Riding. The manufacture of woollen cloths and ſtuffs, of late years greatly increaſed, extends over a tract, of which Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, and Wakefield, are the principal centres. The rivers Aire and Calder, flowing through the midſt of it, give fruitfulneſs to the country, and facility to the tranſport of manufactures and raw materials. The Aire is navigable from Leeds; and there is a canal from this town to Holmbridge beyond Skipton, which is meant to extend to the diſtant port of Liverpool. With this, Bradford has a communicating branch. From Wakefield the Calder is made

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made navigable to Sowerby, above Halifax. The plenty of fuel in this country, the introduction of machines to ſhorten labour, and the induſtry and ſobriety of the inhabitants, greatly promoted by the excellent mode in which the manufacture is carried on, which is by ſmall makers in the little towns and villages, who take their goods to the larger markets—all theſe circumſtances have cauſed trade to flouriſh here, at the expenſe of the weſtern parts of the kingdom.

Leeds, ſituated in a vale, which trade has rendered one of the moſt populous ſpots in England, is the principal of the clothing towns. The poet Dyer has given a ſtriking view of the proſpect it affords:

Wide around
Hillock and valley, farm and village, ſmile:
And ruddy roofs and chimney tops appear
Of buſy Leeds, up-wafting to the clouds
The incenſe of thankſgiving: all is joy;
And trade and buſ'neſs guide the living ſcene;
Roll the full cars; adown the winding Aire
Load the ſlow ſailing barges; pile the pack
On the long tinkling train of ſlow-pac'd ſteeds.

FLEECE.

Leeds

Leeds is particularly the mart for the coloured and white broad cloths, of which vaſt quantities are ſold in its cloth-halls. That called *the mixed cloth hall* is a building of amazing extent, in which the cloth is placed on benches for ſale every market day; and the whole buſineſs is tranſacted within the ſpace of an hour, without the leaſt confuſion. The white cloth hall is a ſimilar building. The manufactures that ſupply theſe two halls extend about ten miles to the ſouth, fifteen to the ſouth-weſt, and eight to the north and weſt; the mixed cloths being moſtly made in the neighbourhood of the river Aire, and the white cloths in that of the Calder. The cloths are ſold in the halls in a rough ſtate, and are finiſhed by the merchants, who employ for the purpoſe a number of dreſſers, dyers, &c. of whom the chief population of Leeds is compoſed. Leeds has a manufactory of coarſe camlets, but declined; and a flouriſhing one of carpets, reſembling both the Wiltſhire and Scotch. Here is alſo carried on a large wholeſale trade in tobacco, for

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for the cutting of which ſome mills have been erected. There is a great pottery in, and another ſome miles from, the town, whence conſiderable quantities of earthen ware are exported to Scotland, Ireland, the Baltic and Mediterranean. Within three miles of the town are numerous collieries, which ſupply not only Leeds, but various other places.

Halifax, ſituated in a hilly country, of rather difficult acceſs, but full of people, is the great market for ſtuffs, ſuch as ſhalloons, tammies, ſerges, calamancoes, everlaſtings, &c. It has alſo a very large market-houſe, called *the new piece hall*, as well as various others for particular goods. A large proportion of theſe articles are ſold abroad. The ſtuff manufactory is carried on fifteen or ſixteen miles to the weſt and north-weſt. To the ſouth-weſt as far as Black-ſtonedge are the makers of kerſeys, ſome of whom directly export their own goods to Germany to a large amount. Some of the Halifax manufacturers have lately engaged largely in the cloth and coaſting trade.

Bradford

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Bradford deals in ſimilar commodities to thoſe of Halifax, made in its neighbourhood. A capital iron foundry has lately been eſtabliſhed in the pariſh.

Wakefield, a handſome town on the Calder, trades in white cloths, and tammies. It is inhabited by ſeveral gentlemen of fortune, and opulent merchants. A great quantity of wool is ſold at its markets.

Keighley has a manufactory of figured everlaſtings, ſhalloons, &c. and broad cloths. This town is the northern boundary of the makers of goods for Halifax market. The ſame goods are made on the banks of the Calder above Sowerby. The frugality and induſtry of theſe people enable them to underſell all their rivals in foreign markets.

Huddersfield, a town riſen up in this century, ſituated amidſt barren moors, is the mart for narrow cloths, called plains. This manufacture extends ten miles to the ſouth, where the coarſeſt cloths are made, which are exported to the Mediterranean. On the ſouth-weſt it extends to *Saddleworth*, a very

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populous diſtrict, where the fineſt narrow and broad cloths are made, ſome of which are directly exported by the makers to Ireland. It is to be obſerved that the merchants of all theſe towns attend all the ſeveral markets, dealing in the manufactures of the other diſtricts, as well as of thoſe which they inhabit.

The Yorkſhire woollens, beſides home conſumption, are exported in large quantities to Holland, Germany, Ruſſia, Spain, and Italy. The manufacturers receive their wool from various parts; ſome from Spain, for the fineſt cloths: alſo from the ſouthern parts of England, Shropſhire, and Norfolk. The worſted ſtuffs are chiefly made of the long Lincolnſhire and Leiceſterſhire wool.

Near the banks of the Aire is *Pontefract*, or *Pomfret*, ſituated in a very rich ſoil, and noted for its nurſery-grounds and large plantations of liquorice. Its caſtle has been the ſcene of various tragical events in Engliſh hiſtory, particularly the murder of the unfortunate king Richard II. after his depoſition.

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In the ſouthern extremity of the county ſtands *Sheffield*, a very populous town, long celebrated for its various hardware manufactories. Theſe are in an increaſing ſtate, and particularly conſiſt of cutlery wares, ſilver and plated goods and buttons. An aſſay-office lately eſtabliſhed in the town has been of great ſervice to its trade. By means of the river Dun, which is navigable within two or three miles of the town, it receives iron from Hull, and conveys thither its manufactures for exportation to America and the Weſt Indies, as well as various parts of Europe. Its neighbourhood, as well as all this part of the county, abounds with coals. There are alſo at Sheffield lead-works and a ſilk-mill. The Sheffield manufactures extend ſeveral miles over the country. The land to the weſt of Sheffield is chiefly moors on which ſheep are fed. A breed peculiar to the country takes its name from *Peniſton*, the market town where they are principally ſold. Theſe are light and active, and prove excellent meat when fattened.

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At *Rotheram*, on the Dun, is a large iron ſmelting work and foundry, alſo mills for the rolling of iron into ſheets, and for making plates for tinning. Theſe works have the advantage of water-conveyance to and from Hull. Coal and iron ore are procured near the town. Much lime is alſo burnt here; and a pottery is eſtabliſhed.

Barnſley, ſituated among coal and iron-works, has a conſiderable trade in iron wire, and ſome other articles of hard-ware. Canals are planned from this place to the Calder and the Dun.

Harrowgate, near Knareſborough, is celebrated for its ſulphureous mineral water, uſed internally and externally in ſcorbutic diſorders.

Yorkſhire, from the ancient conſequence of its capital, and from its ſituation towards Scotland, has been diſtinguiſhed by many important tranſactions in the Engliſh hiſtory.

At North Allerton was fought, in 1137, the *battle of the ſtandard*, in which David king

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king of Scotland, who had laid waſte the whole country, was defeated with great ſlaughter.

In 1460 Richard duke of York was defeated and ſlain by the Lancaſtrians near Wakefield: but, in the enſuing year, this defeat was revenged by his ſon, afterwards Edward IV. who, at Towton, near Shirburn, gained a complete victory, in which thirty-five thouſand men are ſaid to have fallen on both ſides. The whole number in the field was one hundred thouſand, the greateſt ever engaged in theſe deſtructive wars.

In the year 1644 the parliament army gave a ſignal defeat to the royaliſts at Marſton-moor, near York, which was the commencement of the king's ill ſucceſs, and of Cromwell's great influence and reputation.

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WESTMORELAND.

THIS county is encloſed between thoſe of Cumberland, York, and Lancaſter; the firſt bounding it on the north and north-weſt; the ſecond on the eaſt; and the laſt on the ſouth and ſouth-weſt. It has the natural boundaries of lakes, ſtreams, and mountains, almoſt every where except to the ſouth, where it ſinks undiſtinguiſhably into Lancaſhire. From the ſea it is excluded by the detached part of Lancaſhire; and only juſt touches upon the bottom of that wide ſandy waſh which ſeparates the two parts of that county. Its ſhape is irregularly angular, ſomewhat reſembling that of a vine-leaf. Its ſize is leſs than of the other northern counties; yet, in its greateſt length and breadth, it meaſures about forty miles.

The name of this county is deſcriptive of its nature. It is the *weſt moor-land*; a region of

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of lofty mountains, naked hills, and black barren moors, which here, as well as in Cumberland, are alſo called *fells*. The vallies in which the rivers run are tolerably fertile; and in the north-eaſtern quarter there is a conſiderable tract of cultivated plain. The reſt of the county affords only narrow dells and glens of fertility amidſt the dreary hills and extended waſtes. So large is the proportion of theſe tracts, that three fourths of the whole county are ſuppoſed to lie uncultivated. Neither are its mineral treaſures conſiderable. It wants coals; and the metallic ores it contains either lie ſo deep, or are ſo remotely ſituated, as not to be worth working. It abounds in ſlate of the fineſt quality, large quanties of which are exported. Limeſtone is alſo plentiful.

Of the cultivated land, a ſmall proportion is devoted to the raiſing of corn, chiefly oats, with ſome wheat and barley in the vallies; the reſt is employed for paſture and hay. Many Scotch cattle are fattened here, and a great number of milch cows are kept,

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which ſupply the London markets with a large quantity of excellent butter in firkins. The mountains feed great flocks of ſheep, and many black cattle. Numbers of geeſe are bred on the moors, and afford an article of exportation. The Weſtmoreland hams are in conſiderable eſteem, and form one of the exports of the county.

The moſt extenſive lake in England, *Winander Mere*, lies between this county and Lancaſhire. It is remarkable, as well for its beauty, as for the fine char it produces; a fiſh only found in this iſland in ſome lakes of theſe parts, and in a few Welſh lakes. North of this are lofty mountains in which eagles breed, communicating with thoſe in Cumberland; then ſucceeds the large lake of *Ulles-water*, between the two counties; to the ſouth of which lie other lakes, in the foreſt of *Martindale*, where the red deer are ſtill found in a wild ſtate. Out of Ulles-lake flows the *Eymot*, which, in its courſe to join the Eden, forms the boundary of the county for ſome ſpace. It receives the *Lowther*,

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Lowther, which riſes out of the lake called *Broad-water*.

The *Eden*, already mentioned as the principal river of Cumberland, has its ſource in the wildeſt part of this county, on the borders of Yorkſhire; and in its courſe waſhes the town of Appleby. Other ſtreams join it from the eaſtern angle of Weſtmoreland, which chiefly conſiſts of the "wintry waſte" of *Stanemore*, a region of moſt ſavage aſpect, which has been deſcribed both in poetry and romance.

Not far from the ſource of the Eden is that of the *Lon* or *Lune*, a beautiful river, flowing ſouthwards along the borders of Weſtmoreland and Yorkſhire, by Kirkby Lonſdale, below which it leaves this county for Lancaſhire.

Another ſtream, whoſe whole courſe is in this county, is the *Kan*, or *Ken*, which flows by Kendal, and diſcharges itſelf into the ſandy waſh of Lancaſhire. It has a cataract near its mouth, which renders it incapable of navigation; ſo that the village of *Milthrop*,

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throp, ſituated on a little creek near the Ken's mouth, is the only port of this county; nor is it capable of receiving more than very ſmall veſſels. From hence are exported the fine Weſtmoreland ſlates to Liverpool, London, Hull, and other places.

The county town of *Appleby* is an inconſiderable place, though ſituated in the moſt fertile part of Weſtmoreland. It has the principal corn market of theſe parts.

The only commercial town of the county is *Kendal*, long noted for its woollen manufactories, which it ſtill ſupports with vigour, notwithſtanding its diſadvantage of poſſeſſing no water-carriage; ſuch are the effects of active induſtry and frugality. Large quantities of wool from Leiceſterſhire and Durham are here wrought into woven and knit ſtockings, which are chiefly ſent to London in waggons. The coarſe wool of Weſtmoreland is wrought into a thick ſtuff called *cottons*, which are principally ſent to Glaſgow, and exported for the clothing of the negroes, or uſed for ſailors'

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ſailors' jackets. There is alſo a manufactory of linſey-woolſey, for home conſumption; the wool for which comes from the neighbouring counties and Scotland. The tanning buſineſs alſo employs many hands here.

LANCASHIRE.

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LANCASHIRE.

THIS county, bounded on the north by Weſtmoreland and a part of Cumberland, on the eaſt by Yorkſhire, on the weſt by the Iriſh ſea, and on the ſouth by Cheſhire, is irregularly ſhaped, and remarkable for having a conſiderable diſtrict entirely detached from the reſt, acroſs an arm of the ſea. Its greateſt length (excluſive of this detached part) is about ſixty miles; its greateſt breadth, which is at its ſouthern end, about forty-five.

In this extent is compriſed a variety of ſoil and face of country; but, in general, this county is one of thoſe which are the leaſt favoured by nature; a proof of which is the ancient thinneſs of its population, ſhewn by the very ſmall number of pariſhes into which it was divided.

The disjoined part of Lancaſhire, called the hundred of *Furneſs*, partakes of the romantic

mantic character of the adjacent counties, It is a wild and rugged region, ſtored with quantities of iron ore and ſlate, and covered with a growth of underwood, which is cut down in ſucceſſion, and made into charcoal for the uſe of the iron furnaces. A conſiderable lake, *Coniſton-meer*, lies in this tract, which yields char as well as the neighbouring Winander. Near the ſea, and in the vicinity of the ancient abbey of Furneſs, the land is tolerably fertile. The long and narrow *iſle of Walney* forms its bulwark againſt the waves of the Iriſh ſea. The port of this diſtrict is at *Ulverſtone*, ſituated on a ſhallow arm of the ſea, into which the *Leven* and other ſtreams enter. This arm, as well as the broad eſtuary ſeparating Furneſs from the reſt of Lancaſhire, is continually croſſed by horſes and carriages at low water, though not without ſome danger

The main part of the county may be divided into two unequal portions, the ſmaller lying between the borders of Weſtmoreland and the Ribble, the larger between the Ribble and the Merſey.

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In the firſt of theſe, the banks of the *Lon* or *Lune*, which comes down from Weſtmoreland, and enters the ſea below Lancaſter, are beautiful and romantic. The country about *Garſtang* breeds a fine race of horned cattle, reckoned as perfect in their form as any in England. The tract between the road from hence to Preſton, and the ſea, called the *Fild* or *Field*, is flat, and produces large quantities of oats. Through this runs the river *Wier*, or *Wyre*, the mouth of which is below Poulton. Near that town is *Blackpool*, a village on the coaſt much reſorted to for ſea bathing. The eaſtern part of this portion, compriſing the old foreſts of Wierſdale and Bowland, is mountainous and generally barren.

The *Ribble*, entering the county from Yorkſhire at Clithero, and, after paſſing by Preſton, diſcharging itſelf by a broad ſandy outlet, flows through a vale of great fertility and beauty. Of the large tract between this river and the Merſey all the ſouthern part is flat, quite from the ſea to the commencement of the ridge called *Black-ſtone-edge*,

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edge, ſeparating this county from Yorkſhire. Much of this is a fertile country, though occaſionally deformed by the black turf bogs, here called moſſes; ſome of which are of large extent, and abſolutely impaſſable in wet ſeaſons. In the north-eaſtern part of this diviſion are ſome lofty hills, among which the moſt noted is *Pendle-hill*. The remaining part is varied with hill, dale, and moor.

The boundary river, the *Merſey*, after receiving above Stockport the *Tame*, (which takes up the boundary where the Merſey leaves it) and ſomewhat lower, the *Irwell*, bringing down a conflux of other ſtreams from Mancheſter, winds through a tract of rich meadows; and, after paſſing Warrington, ſoon dilates into a wide ſandy eſtuary, which, contracting again, reaches the ſea below Liverpool.

Such is the general face of this county, the natural products of which are of little conſequence, except the coal and turf, with which its ſouthern parts abound. For a corn country it is little adapted, not only in many

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many parts from the nature of its ſoil, but from the remarkable wetneſs of its climate, occaſioned by the frequent clouds which, in their paſſage from the weſtern ſea, are here firſt ſtopped by the inland ridge of hills. The grain principally cultivated is oats; but the whole growth of corn is ſuppoſed not to exceed a three month's conſumption of the inhabitants. The land is, however, found to be ſingularly fitted to the growth of potatoes, that uſeful root, which forms the beſt ſubſtitute for corn, and yields a greater increaſe than almoſt any other nutritious vegetable. A conſiderable quantity of cheeſe, and ſome of excellent quality, is made in the county.

All the rivers of Lancaſhire afford ſalmon; and the Merſey is viſited by annual ſhoals of ſmelts, here called ſparlings, of remarkable ſize and flavour.

As a commercial and manufacturing county, this has diſtinguiſhed itſelf, eſpecially of late years, beyond any other in the kingdom. Two larger and more flouriſhing towns than any other ſingle county poſ-

ſeſſes,

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ſeſſes, Mancheſter and Liverpool, are mutual aids to each other in the acquiſition of wealth.

Mancheſter, which has been long noted for various branches of the linen, ſilk, and cotton manufactory, is now principally conſpicuous as the centre of the cotton trade, an immenſe buſineſs, extending in ſome or other of its operations from Furneſs (where great cotton-ſpinning mills have been eſtabliſhed) to Derby, north and ſouth; and, from Halifax to Liverpool, eaſt and weſt. The labours of a very populous neighbourhood are collected at Mancheſter; whence they are ſent to London, Liverpool, Hull, and other places. Theſe conſiſt of a great variety of cotton and mixed goods, fitted for all ſorts of markets, both at home or abroad, ſpreading over great part of Europe, America, and the coaſt of Guinea, and bringing back vaſt profits to this country. The raw material is principally imported at Liverpool and Lancaſter; but is occaſionally brought from London and other ports. The manufacture of tapes and other ſmall wares,

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of ſilk goods and of hats, is alſo carried on at Mancheſter; and the late improvements in machinery for ſpinning cotton and other purpoſes have cauſed the erection of numerous ſteam engines, which give employ to a vaſtly augmented population. Iron foundries and other branches of ſubordinate manufacture have alſo proportionally increaſed. From theſe various ſources of wealth Mancheſter has attained greater opulence than almoſt any of the trading towns in England. Its buildings, eſpecially the more modern ones, are on a proportional ſcale of ſize and elegance. Its water-communications have lately been extended by canals to ſeveral of the neighbouring towns, ſome of them penetrating acroſs the hills into Yorkſhire, and forming connexions with the port of Hull and the German ocean.

Liverpool, ſituated at the great inlet of this part of the county, by means of the Merſey and its communicating rivers and canals, has grown in proportion to the increaſe of interior wealth and population, ſo as

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as at length to have become, with reſpect to extent of commerce, undoubtedly the ſecond port in the kingdom. Its harbour is artificial, conſiſting of large docks formed in the town, and communicating with the river Merſey. The entrance of this river is dangerous, though every direction is given to render it more ſecure. The trade of Liverpool is very general; but it is to be lamented that one of its principal branches is the inhuman traffic for ſlaves on the coaſt of Guinea, to ſupply the Weſt India iſlands, from whence in return great quantities of ſugar, cotton, and other products are imported. The American, Baltic, and Portugal branches are alſo conſiderable; and the communication with Ireland is very extenſive. Several ſhips are alſo ſent to the Greenland fiſhery; and there is a great coaſting trade for corn and other commodities. Liverpool communicates, by means of the Merſey, with Warrington, and with a canal called the Sankey canal, running to ſome coal-pits and other works a little way up the country; by means of the Irwell, and alſo the Duke of

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Bridgewater's canal, with Mancheſter, and all the places to which the numerous canals from that town run; by means of the Weever, with the Cheſhire ſalt works; and, by means of the Duke of Bridgewater's canal, with the Staffordſhire and all its communications. A vaſt deſign is alſo in part executed, of cutting a canal from Liverpool quite to Leeds in Yorkſhire. This already brings down great quantities of coal from the neighbourhood of Wigan. The preſent war has been peculiarly favourable to the commerce of Liverpool, which has obtained by it almoſt a monopoly of the African trade, and a vaſt extenſion of all its other branches. Hence it has taken a ſtart in opulence and population, which ſeems without diſpute to place it next to the metropolis in theſe reſpects. New docks and other improvements are at this time undertaken; and the inſtitution of a public library, upon a ſcale much beyond any other in the kingdom, does credit to the ſpirit by which this proſperity is accompanied.

Moſt of the other towns in this county are

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are diſtinguiſhed by ſome particular branch of trade.

Lancaſter, the capital, is a well-built and populous town, having a port for veſſels of moderate burthen, and carrying on a conſiderable foreign trade, eſpecially to the Weſt Indies. It is noted for the making of mahogany cabinet ware.

Preſton, which participates only in a ſmall degree in the manufactures of the county, is a handſome place, inhabited by many families of gentry, invited by its beautiful ſituation. It has been the ſcene of various actions in our civil wars, particularly in the rebellion of 1715. Several law-courts for the county and duchy are held here.

Kirkham, in the *Fild*, has a conſiderable manufactory of ſail-cloth, and other coarſe linens.

At *Wigan*, the ſtrongeſt checks are made, and other articles of linen and cotton manufacture. That moſt elegant ſpecies of coal, called Cannel, is found in plenty and great perfection in its neighbourhood. Its ſmall ſtream, the *Douglas*, is made navigable to the

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Ribble; and it is joined by a canal from Liverpool.

Warrington, the great thoroughfare to the north-weſt, has a large manufactory of ſail-cloth, which contributes much to the ſupply of the royal navy; and alſo of ſacking. Glaſs-houſes and copper ſmelting works are likewiſe eſtabliſhed here (the latter at preſent diſuſed); and many hands are employed in pin-making. The cotton trade is now gaining ground in this place.

Bolton, ſituated amidſt dreary moors, has enriched itſelf by the fuſtian and counterpane branches of manufacture. Dimities and muſlins are alſo made here in conſiderable quantities. Bleaching and cotton-ſpinning are extenſively carried on in its neighbourhood.

Bury participates largely in the cotton trade, and has near it ſome of the moſt capital printing works in Lancaſhire.

Blackburn, to the north of it, ſtill more remote from the centre of buſineſs, carries on a vaſt trade in calicoes for printing.

About

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About *Burnley* ſhalloons are made for the Halifax market.

Rochdale, at the foot of the Yorkſhire hills, has a flouriſhing manufactory of bays, ſerges, flannels, coatings, and other woollen goods.

Part of theſe are exported or ſent to London by the Yorkſhire merchants; but conſiderable quantities are ſent directly to Portugal by the Rochdale merchants. This town has got moſt of the trade from Bocking and other places in Eſſex. Its manufactures extend eight or ten miles north of the town.

Oldham, though no market town, is become extremely populous. Being ſituated among the hills that produce the beſt coals, a large manufactory of hats has been eſtabliſhed there. It alſo ſhares in the Mancheſter manufactures.

Beſides all theſe branches there are, in various parts, conſiderable works in iron and ſteel, particularly of the beſt files in England; nails, locks, and hinges; watch-tools and movements; and ſmelting and refining copper. Theſe are favoured by the un-

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common plenty of coals of almoſt every kind in this county. This circumſtance too has occaſioned the eſtabliſhment, near *Preſcot*, of a patent manufactory of caſt plate glaſs, after the French manner; the only one in the kingdom.

The Duke of Bridgewater began his magnificent plans by the canal from his coal-pits to Mancheſter. Its head is at *Worſley*, where tunnels are driven a vaſt way under ground, beneath the bottom of the coal-pits, from which boats are loaded. This canal is carried by a noble aqueduct acroſs the navigable river Irwell, and afterwards joins the principal one in Cheſhire.

A number of other canals have lately been planned, and are at this time carrying on, by which a mutual communication will be eſtabliſhed among moſt of its manufacturing towns, and alſo with Yorkſhire. A canal, called the *Lancaſter*, will run from the ſouthern part of the county, into Weſtmoreland, and produce an uſeful interchange between the coal of Lancaſhire, and limeſtone and ſlate of that county.

CHESHIRE.

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CHESHIRE.

THIS county, diſtinguiſhed in its figure by the two horns which project to the eaſt and weſt of its northern ſide, is bounded on the north by the rivers Merſey and Tame, which ſeparate it from Lancaſhire, and by a ſmall point of Yorkſhire; on the eaſt, by the counties of Derby and Stafford, the limits of which are marked for the moſt part by hills and ſtreams; on the ſouth by Shropſhire and a detached part of Flintſhire; and on the weſt by Denbighſhire, Flintſhire, and the eſtuary of the Dee. Its length is thirty miles; its extreme breadth, from horn to horn, almoſt ſixty; but acroſs its middle part not forty.

Cheſhire is in general a flat country. Its moſt hilly part is towards the eaſtern border, where are ſome conſiderable eminences, forming a chain with the Derbyſhire and Staffordſhire hills. An interrupted ridge of high

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high ground alſo croſſes it from north to ſouth on the weſtern ſide, beginning with a bold promontory, overlooking the Merſey near Frodſham; then croſſing that large tract of heath called *Delamere-foreſt*; appearing again in the inſulated rock of *Beeſton*, crowned with the ruins of its ſtrong caſtle; and ceaſing in the wooded *Broxton* hills near Malpas. The reſt of the county is nearly level: its ſoil in many parts light and ſandy, with much red grit rock, on which almoſt all the towns and villages are built; in others ſtiff clay; with an intermixture of uncultivated moſs and heath. Yet the proportion of waſte ground to the cultivated on the whole is not eſtimated at above one eleventh. Several ſmall lakes, called *meres*, are interſperſed, particularly in the northern parts.

The rivers in this county are, firſt, the *Dee*, a ſtream held in great veneration by our Britiſh anceſtors. It has its riſe, and the principal part of its courſe, in Wales, and only viſits the weſtern border of Cheſhire,

to

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to which it ſerves for ſome ſpace as a boundary; then croſſing over to the city of Cheſter, it flows from thence to the ſea, making a broad ſandy eſtuary, which ſeparates this county from Flintſhire. By embankments here made, much land has been gained from the tide, and a narrow, but deeper channel, fitter for navigation, has been formed from Cheſter half way to the ſea. The Dee is navigable from near Elleſmere, in Shropſhire, to Cheſter; but, at this city, the continuity of the navigation is broken by a ledge of rocks running acroſs the bed of the river, and cauſing a ſort of caſcade.

The *Weever* riſes in the northern part of Shropſhire, and, after running acroſs the middle of Cheſhire, and receiving the *Dane* from the eaſt, empties into the eſtuary of the Merſey. It is navigable to Winsford, ſome miles above Northwich.

The *Merſey* itſelf belongs more to this county than to Lancaſhire, ſince it riſes juſt within Yorkſhire; and, coaſting firſt along the

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the ſouthern ſide of the eaſtern horn of Cheſhire, then croſſes it, and reaches Lancaſhire only above Stockport.

Two commodities render Cheſhire particularly famous, its ſalt and its cheeſe.

The ſalt-works are at the three towns called *Wyches*, viz. *Namptwich*, *Middlewich*, and *Northwich*, and at *Winsford* and ſome other places. At moſt of theſe brine is pumped up from ſprings which contain the ſalt diſſolved in the bowels of the earth, and which is procured from the brine again by boiling. At *Northwich* vaſt pits of ſolid ſalt rock have been dug to a great depth, from which immenſe quantities are raiſed, partly to be purified on the ſpot by re-diſſolving and boiling, and partly to be exported in its crude ſtate. Moſt of the latter goes to Liverpool by means of the river Weever; and the plenty and cheapneſs of this commodity has been a principal cauſe of the great foreign commerce of that port. The clear annual duty received by government for Cheſhire ſalt amounts to 200,000*l.*

The

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The cheeſe of this county is noted for its mellowneſs and rich flavour; and great quantities of it are conſumed in various parts of England and Scotland, as well as exported abroad. About three fourths of the land in Cheſhire is ſuppoſed to be paſtured or mown: and the graſs, except what is eaten by horſes, is chiefly conſumed by milking cows, as few cattle are fattened here. The farmers are leſs attentive to the beauty of their cows than in many other parts, the milk being the great object: and they keep them to a great age. More calves are fed in Cheſhire, during the months of March and April, than in any other part of England; but the veal is killed very young, as the milk cannot be long ſpared. The dairies are ſcattered over the whole county; but the principal are about Namptwich, and the tract between the Dane and Weever, where the ſoil is moſt clayey. The cheeſe is chiefly ſold to London; but a good deal goes to Liverpool and the counties to the north.

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The chief manures of this county are marl and lime; the latter moſtly gotten on the eaſtern ſide. Coals are in conſiderable plenty in the north-eaſt; and ſome are alſo dug in the hundred of *Wirral*, or that peninſula which lies between the Dee and Merſey, whence they are ſent to Cheſter. The midſt of the county is principally ſupplied from Lancaſhire. Stone quarries are frequent in the hilly parts. There are few conſiderable woods in Cheſhire, but timber abounds in the hedge rows, and eſpecially oak, the bark of which is a valuable object, on account of the many tanneries eſtabliſhed in the county.

The great canal of the duke of Bridgewater has its principal courſe in Cheſhire, entering the county from Mancheſter by croſſing the Merſey, and then running parallel to it, till it falls into that river at Runcorn. With this the grand canal communicates which joins the Trent and Merſey, and is called the Staffordſhire. This laſt canal croſſes Cheſhire, paſſing by Northwich and

and Middlewich. There is beſides, another canal from Cheſter to Namptwich, intended to promote the commerce of that city by giving it the advantage of an exportation of ſalt; but it has failed in its effect.

The capital of the county, *Cheſter*, is an ancient city of moderate ſide. Its main ſtreets have a peculiarity of conſtruction not found in any other town. They are hollowed out in the rock to the depth of one ſtory beneath the level of the ground on each ſide; and the houſes have a ſort of covered portico running on from houſe to houſe and ſtreet to ſtreet, level with the ground at the back, but one ſtory above the ſtreet. They are called *rows*, and afford a ſheltered walk for the foot paſſengers. Beneath them are ſhops and warehouſes on the level of the ſtreet. Cheſter is walled round, though its walls are now kept up only as affording a fine walk on their top for the inhabitants. It has a caſtle in which a garriſon of invalids is ſtationed. Cheſter has a ſmall ſhare of foreign commerce by means

of

of its port; and its two annual fairs are ſome of the moſt noted in England, eſpecially for the ſale of Iriſh linen. It has a manufactory of gloves; ſome ſhip-building; and a conſiderable traffic of ſhop-goods into North Wales. It is, however, chiefly diſtinguiſhed as the reſidence of many families of gentry from the county, and from Wales.

Of the other towns, *Stockport* is now the moſt populous and flouriſhing, on account of its participating largely in the cotton manufactures. Theſe have cauſed its former buſineſs of making checks, hats, and buttons, to decline, though the hat-making is ſtill a conſiderable branch. It has a great market for cheeſe and oatmeal.

Namptwich, an old town of moderate ſize, has a conſiderable trade in ſhoes, made for the London market, and a ſmall manufacture of gloves. Much tanning is done in this place and its vicinity.

Macclesfield and *Congleton* have large mills for the winding of ſilk. At the latter ribbons are made for the Coventry manufacturers:

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turers: at the former is a conſiderable manufactory of mohair buttons; and extenſive works for ſmelting copper and making braſs, are erected near it.

Knutsford was formerly diſtinguiſhed for a manufactory of thread, but it is almoſt extinct. Its neighbourhood is diſtinguiſhed for a number of ſeats of the principal families of the county.

In all the above-mentioned towns the ancient branches of buſineſs are declining, and newly-erected cotton-works are riſing upon their ruins. This flouriſhing branch of manufacture ſeems now extending through Cheſhire, as it has done over Lancaſhire.

The village of *Parkgate* near the mouth of the Dee is well known as a place of tranſit between this kingdom and Ireland, though leſs uſed ſince the eſtabliſhment of regular carriages through Wales to Holyhead. Parkgate is alſo frequented for ſea-bathing.

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SHROPSHIRE.

SHROPSHIRE, or the county of Salop, is bounded on the north by Cheſhire, the detached part of Flintſhire, and a corner of Denbighſhire; on the weſt by the latter county, and thoſe of Montgomery and Radnor; on the ſouth by Herefordſhire and Worceſterſhire; and on the eaſt by Staffordſhire. It is of a roundiſh figure, with many indentations and projections. Its greateſt length is about fifty miles, and breadth forty.

Shropſhire is divided into two nearly equal parts by the Severn. Of theſe the ſouthern portion, which was anciently a part of Wales, partakes of the mountainous character of that region; eſpecially the ſouth-weſtern angle. In the northern portion there is a conſiderable part flat, though it is not without high hills, particularly on the borders of Wales. The noted mountain, the

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the *Wrekin*, is in this diviſion, not far from the centre of the county.

The *Severn* enters Shropſhire juſt at its conflux with the *Vyrnyw*, or *Wirnew*, on the weſtern ſide, and takes its courſe to the ſouth-eaſt, winding beautifully through deep romantic vallies, finely wooded. On the northern ſide it receives the *Tern*, a conſiderable ſtream, augmented by the *Rodon*; on the ſouthern it is fed by ſeveral ſmall rills. The Severn is navigable in its whole courſe through this county, thereby affording a great convenience for the tranſport of its commodities. Its banks, which are often overflowed, produce large crops of hay. The rivers of the ſouthern part chiefly fall into the *Tend*, which joins the Severn in Worceſterſhire.

Shropſhire has a great variety of ſoil, but in general is well cultivated, producing large quantities of grain of all ſorts, much of which is ſent down the Severn for exportation. Its level parts feed many cattle; and much of the cheeſe ſold under the name of

Cheſhire is made in this county. The ſheep of its hilly tracts afford a fine wool, which is employed in the manufactories of the weſt, there being none of any conſequence in Shropſhire. The neighbourhood of the Wrekin and Bridgenorth, and that of Clunn, in the ſouth-weſtern corner, are reckoned to yield wool equal to that of Lemſter. Some hops are grown upon the Herefordſhire border.

The mineral products of this county are conſiderable, conſiſting of lead, iron, limeſtone, freeſtone, pipe clay, and coals. The iron works of *Colebrook-Dale* on the banks of the Severn are ſuppoſed to be the moſt conſiderable in England. The neighbouring hills ſupply both ore and coal, as well as limeſtone, in great quantities; and every part of the proceſs, from digging the ore to the laſt finiſh of the manufacture, is performed on the ſpot. "Colebrook-Dale "(ſays Mr. Young) is a winding glen, be- "tween two immenſe hills, which break "into various forms, being all thickly co- "vered

" vered and forming moſt beautiful ſheets " of hanging woods. The noiſe of the " forges, mills, &c. with all their vaſt ma- " chinery; the flames burſting from the " furnaces, with the burning of coal, and " the ſmoke of the lime-kins; are altoge- " ther horribly ſublime." A bridge entirely made of caſt iron, which has been lately thrown over the Severn, gives theſe ſcenes a ſtill nearer reſemblance to the ideas in romance. There is alſo in the Dale a remarkable ſpring of foſſil tar, or petroleum, which has yielded a vaſt quantity of that ſubſtance, but it is now much diminiſhed. A work for obtaining a ſimilar kind of tar from the condenſed ſmoke of pit coal has been erected in the Dale.

The capital of this county, *Shrewſbury*, beautifully ſituated in a peninſula formed by the Severn, is a very reſpectable ancient town, inhabited by many families of gentry, and carrying on no inconſiderable commerce. It is the chief mart for a coarſe kind of woollen cloth made in Montgo-

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meryſhire, called Welſh-webs, which are bought up in the country and dreſſed here, whence they are ſent for exportation principally to America and Flanders. Much of the Welſh flannel is alſo bought at Welſhpool by the drapers of this place. Shrewſbury is famous for the making of excellent brawn, which is ſent to various parts of the kingdom. A newly planned canal from hence to the Dee and Merſey, may be expected to increaſe its traffic. A large Houſe of Induſtry eſtabliſhed in this place is celebrated for its excellent management.

Cloſe to this town was fought in 1400 the bloody battle between King Henry IV. and the malcontents under Henry Percy, ſurnamed Hotſpur, in which the latter was defeated and ſlain.

Bridgenorth is a pretty conſiderable town, with one of the firſt fairs in the kingdom for hops, clover ſeed, and Welſh flannels.

At *Oſweſtry*, a market town in the northweſt, conſiderable quantities of the Welſh woollens are ſold.

Elleſmere

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Elleſmere is ſituated upon an eminence, commanding a remarkably fine view. It takes its name from a large mere; and there are others in its neighbourhood.

Ludlow, on the border of Herefordſhire, is celebrated for the remains of its magnificent caſtle. The wooded and romantic ſcenery around it ſuggeſted the deſcriptions in Milton's incomparable *Maſque of Comus*, which was firſt repreſented in it, when inhabited by the Bridgewater family.

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HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE county of Hereford has to the north Shropſhire; to the weſt the counties of Radnor and Brecknock, the latter ſeparated by the Hatterel hills, or Black Mountain; to the ſouth Monmouthſhire and Glouceſterſhire, the former ſeparated by the river Munno, the latter, in part, by the Wye; and to the eaſt Worceſterſhire. It is of a circular form, but its circumference is made irregular by many windings and indentations. Its central length and breadth are each about thirty-ſix miles.

Herefordſhire is one of the counties which moſt happily unite the rich and fertile with the pictureſque and romantic. The poet Dyer's deſcription of *Siluria*, of which it formed a conſiderable part, paints it in beautiful colours.

Pleaſant Siluria, land of various views,
Hills, rivers, woods, and lawns, and purple groves
Pomaceous, mingled with the curling growth
Of tendril hops, that flaunt upon their poles.

FLEECE.

The

The fertility and pleaſantneſs of this county are greatly owing to the fine rivers by which it is watered. Of theſe the principal is the *Wye*, which, entering on the weſtern ſide, almoſt croſſes the county meandering to the ſouth-eaſt, when, turning directly ſouth, it reaches the boundary of Glouceſterſhire, and then bending weſtward arrives at the borders of Monmouthſhire. The romantic beauties of the Wye, which flows in a deep bed between lofty rocks clothed with hanging woods, and here and there crowned with ruined caſtles, have employed the deſcriptive powers of the pen and pencil, and frequently engage the curioſity of travellers.

The *Lug*, a conſiderable ſtream, riſing in the north-weſt, on the confines of Radnor, after flowing acroſs great part of this county, and receiving many rivulets from the north and eaſt, falls into the Wye a little below Hereford, and compels it to take its ſouthward direction.

The *Munno* or *Mynnow*, already mentioned

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tioned as forming the limit on the Monmouthſhire border, ſprings from the Hatterel-hills; and, after receiving the *Doyer*, flowing out of a valley, called from its ſuperior fertility the *Golden vale*, goes on to join the Wye at the town of Monmouth.

The northern extremity of the county is juſt croſſed in two places by the *Teme*.

Two products render Herefordſhire particularly famous—its cyder and its wool.

The apples producing the cyder grow in greater abundance here than in any other county, being plentiful even in the hedge rows. Of theſe are various kinds, yielding liquors of different ſtrength and qualities. The Styer cyder is remarkable for a ſtrength and body unuſual to this liquor, and keeps very well.

The ſheep of Herefordſhire are ſmall, affording a fine ſilky wool, in quality approaching to the Spaniſh. The *Lemſter* wool has long been famous, as well as that from the diſtrict called *Irchinfield*, near Roſs. Dyer, ſpeaking of the light dry ſoils fitteſt for the breeding

breeding of ſheep, particularizes more places in this county than in any other. The lines are very happily deſcriptive of the ſeveral ſituations.

——— Such too the leas
And ruddy tilth which ſpiry *Roſs* beholds,
From a green hillock, o'er her lofty elms;
And *Lemſter's* brooky tract, and airy *Croft*,
And ſuch Harleian *Eywood's* ſwelling turf,
Waved as the billows of a rolling ſea;
And *Shobden* for its lofty terrace fam'd,
Which, from a mountain's ridge, elate o'er woods,
And girt with all Siluria, ſees around
Regions on regions blended in the clouds.

FLEECE.

The grain of this fruitful county is not leſs excellent than its other products. The wheat of its vales, and barley of its high grounds, are equal to the beſt in England. The proportion of land under the plough is eſtimated at two thirds of the whole. Many hops are grown, eſpecially in the woodland parts. The waſte ground is a ſmall portion of the county. The principal part of it lies at the foot of the Black Mountain.

As

As the employments of agriculture are ſo ſucceſsfully followed here, it cannot be expected that the inhabitants ſhould turn their induſtry to manufactures. The towns of Herefordſhire are therefore inconſiderable.

Its capital, the city of *Hereford*, is an ancient decayed place, with a large cathedral in danger of ſpeedy ruin. It has a manufacture of gloves.

Roſs is chiefly remarkable for its pleaſant ſituation, and for the appellation it has given of *the Man of Roſs* to one of its townſmen, Mr. John Kyrle, whoſe benevolence and public ſpirit Pope has ſo finely celebrated. It is the centre of the principal barley country.

Leominſter, or *Lemſter*, has already been mentioned for its wool, and its market is alſo of note for the fineſt wheat; as *Weobly* in its neighbourhood is for malt liquor.

Ledbury, near the Malvern hills, has a ſhare in the clothing trade.

MONMOUTH-

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MONMOUTHSHIRE.

MONMOUTHSHIRE has to the north the counties of Hereford and Brecknock; to the weſt the latter, and that of Glamorgan; to the ſouth the Briſtol channel; and to the eaſt Glouceſterſhire. Its boundaries are in great part rivers; the Wye and Mynnow to the eaſt and north-eaſt, and the Rhyney, or Rumney, to the weſt. Its greateſt length is about twenty-four miles, and breadth ſomewhat leſs.

This was formerly reckoned one of the Welſh counties; and, from the names of its towns and villages, its mountainous rugged ſurface, as well as its ſituation beyond a large river, the Wye, which ſeems to form a natural boundary between England and Wales in this part, it certainly partakes moſt of the character of the latter country, though it is comprehended in the civil diviſion of the former.

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The river Uſk divides Monmouthſhire into two unequal portions, of which the eaſtern, or largeſt, is a tract upon the whole fertile in corn and paſture, and well wooded. It abounds in limeſtone, which is burnt on the ſpot for the general manure of the country. The ſmaller weſtern part is mountainous, and, in great part, unfavourable for cultivation, whence it is devoted to the feeding of ſheep. It has ſeveral long narrow vallies, watered by ſtreams which flow into the Briſtol channel.

The principal towns of this county are ſituated upon the banks of the Wye and Uſk.

Monmouth, the county town, lies in an angle between the Wye and Mynnow. It is large and handſome, and carries on a trade with Briſtol by means of the Wye, which ſerves for the exportation of the products of the country, and the importation of foreign articles. Here was born the warlike king Henry V. who bore the name of Henry of Monmouth.

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Lower down the Wye the remains of *Tintern-abbey*, and the caſtle of *Chepſtow*, form objects highly pictureſque, amid the wild beauties of this tract. Near Tintern are large iron works, at which ore is ſmelted, brought chiefly from Furneſs in Lancaſhire. The town of *Chepſtow* has a tolerable port, at which the tide, ruſhing up from the broad mouth of the Severn, riſes to a very extraordinary height. Chepſtow carries on a conſiderable trade with the circumjacent country.

On the Uſk are three towns of great antiquity, though now of little conſequence; *Abergavenny*, *Caerwyſke*, or *Uſk*, and *Caerleon*. The firſt of theſe has a traffic in flannels.

Newport, near the mouth of the river, has a pretty good harbour, and poſſeſſes ſome trade.

Both the Uſk and the Wye are well ſtocked with fiſh, particularly fine ſalmon.

The *Avon*, a river which empties itſelf into the Uſk at Caerleon, turns ſeveral mills for

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for the working of iron plates, which are uſed in a manufactory of japanned ware (now on the decline) at *Ponty-pool*, on its banks.

Other places in this county worth noticing are, the narrow ſequeſtered *Vale of Evias*, beneath the Hatterel-hills, formerly the well-adapted ſite of a monaſtery; and the ruins of *Ragland caſtle*, a fortreſs of great ſtrength, ſo late as the time of Charles I. in whoſe favour it held out, under the Marquis of Worceſter, to the very end of the civil wars.

NOTTINGHAM-

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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THIS county, bounded on the north by Yorkſhire and Lincolnſhire; on the eaſt by the latter county; on the ſouth by Leiceſterſhire; and on the weſt by Derbyſhire; is of the figure of a long oval, with its narroweſt end towards the north. Its greateſt length is near fifty miles; its greateſt breadth above twenty. Being happily ſituated between the mountainous country of Derbyſhire on the one hand and the flat of Lincolnſhire on the other, it enjoys ſuch a temperature of ſoil and climate, as to render it one of the moſt fertile and agreeable counties in England: an evidence of which is the uncommon number of ſeats of the firſt nobility contained in it.

The glory of this county is its noble river the *Trent*; which, after croſſing the counties of Stafford and Derby, enters Nottinghamſhire at its ſouth-weſtern extremity, and

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thence, croſſing obliquely to the eaſt, coaſts along its whole eaſtern ſide, becoming towards the northern part the boundary betwixt this county and that of Lincoln. During this whole courſe, the Trent is a large navigable river, imparting fertility to the wide tract of meadows through which it flows, and affording a ready conveyance for the corn and other products of the county. Its chief inconvenience is that of being ſubject to frequent and great floods.

From the middle and north-weſtern parts of this county ſeveral ſtreams unite to form the *Idle*, a river which joins the Trent at the north-eaſtern angle of Nottinghamſhire. The Cheſterfield canal croſſes the northern extremity of the county, and enters the Trent near the mouth of the Idle.

As to ſoil and face of country, Nottinghamſhire may be divided into three or four parallel diſtricts, pretty diſtinct from each other. A narrow ſtripe on the Derbyſhire border, ſtretching as far ſouth as oppoſite to Nottingham, is the limeſtone and coal diſtrict.

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trict. This is chiefly arable, and contains ſeveral woods. The next is a much broader ſtripe, running quite up to the northern extremity of the county, compoſed chiefly of ſand and gravel. This includes the whole of the ancient royal foreſt of *Sherwood*, popularly known as the ſcene of many fabulous adventures of the noted outlaw Robin Hood and his companions. Much of this lies in a waſte ſtate, with but ſmall remains of the woods with which it was formerly covered. A conſiderable quantity of the land has however been encloſed and brought into cultivation, and ſeveral large parks have been taken out of it by grants from the crown, which are brought into tillage or covered with flouriſhing plantations. The turnip huſbandry has been introduced with great ſucceſs upon the foreſt encloſures, and a large quantity of barley and other grain is produced. Some hops are grown in this diſtrict; and an article for dying yellow, called weld, or dyer's weed. The next parallel tract, nearly of the ſame extent, is

the clay diſtrict, reaching from the former quite to the banks of the Trent at the northern end of the county, but leaving an intermediate ſpace at the middle and ſouthern point. A patch of the clay diſtrict alſo appears beyond the Trent at the very ſouthern extremity of the county. Of this a great part is arable, intermixed with ſome paſture and woods. Many hops are grown about Redford; and more pigeons are ſuppoſed to be kept in this diſtrict than any where beſides in England. The Trent bank land forms another diſtrict, ſpreading on each ſide the river from its entrance out of Leiceſterſhire to the part where it forms the Lincolnſhire boundary. The banks of the Soar may alſo be comprehended in this diviſion. The arable of this diſtrict, which is the ſmaller proportion, yields remarkably fine oats. The paſture is chiefly devoted to feeding, though there are ſome large dairies on the ſouth bank. The beautiful vale of Belvoir forms another tract, lying beyond the ſouth-eaſt Trent bank to the borders

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borders of Leiceſterſhire and Lincolnſhire. It is a rich loamy ſoil, cultivated with a mixture of arable and paſture.

Nottinghamſhire has of old been famous for its *bread* and *beer*; and to this day its chief products and exports are corn and malt. It is alſo of no ſmall conſequence as a manufacturing county; and its fabrics are at preſent in a thriving and increaſing ſtate. Theſe we ſhall now proceed to mention.

Nottingham, the county-town, beautifully ſituated on a rocky eminence above the meadows bordering the Trent, crowned with its ſtately caſtle, is a large, populous, and handſome town, diſtinguiſhed by its ſpacious market place, and noted as one of the principal ſeats of the ſtocking manufacture. The goods made here are chiefly of the finer kinds, as thoſe of ſilk and cotton; and the trade is extended to the neighbourhood round, and ſome of the more diſtant towns. As the articles of the Nottinghamſhire manufactures are valuable in proportion to their bulk, they are chiefly conveyed to the

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different ports and places of conſumption by land. A conſiderable ſhare of them is exported to various parts of Europe, America, and the Weſt Indies. The cotton for this manufacture is ſpun by machinery worked by water in this county and in Derbyſhire. Nottingham has alſo a manufactory of coarſe earthern ware. At this town king Charles firſt ſet up his ſtandard at the commencement of the unfortunate civil wars which terminated in his deſtruction and that of the conſtitution.

Mansfield, on the borders of Sherwood-foreſt, has a great trade in corn and malt, and participates in the ſtocking manufacture.

Sutton, in its neighbourhood, has alſo a thriving manufactory of the ſame kind, which extends to a greater variety of articles than any other in the kingdom; ſuch as milled woollen caps, for the Canadian and other markets, and pieces for waiſtcoats, &c. of fancy patterns, woven in the ſtocking frame, which are exported to France, Germany, and other parts of Europe.

Newark is a conſiderable and very neat market

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market town near the Trent. Here, in the midſt of troubles which his own folly and baſeneſs had excited, died the inglorious king John. The ſtory of his being poiſoned is now rejected by the beſt hiſtorians. Here, too, the equally unfortunate king Charles I. after his defeat at Naſeby, put himſelf into the hands of the Scotch army, then beſieging this town, by whom he was afterwards given up to his worſt enemies.

At *Stoke*, in the neighbourhood of Newark, John de la Pole, earl of Lincoln, rebelling againſt Henry VII. in favour of the impoſtor Simnel, was routed and ſlain with his whole party in the year 1487.

Beacon-hill, alſo near Newark, is noted for ſome of the moſt conſiderable quarries in England of gypſum, or plaſter-ſtone. Much of it is exported from Gainſborough to London and other places.

Near *Workſop* liquorice was formerly cultivated. Its vicinity is peculiarly remarkable for the number of ſeats of the firſt nobility.

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DERBYSHIRE.

THE boundaries of this county are, on the north, a ſmall part of Cheſhire and Yorkſhire; on the eaſt Nottinghamſhire; on the ſouth, Leiceſterſhire, a ſingle point of Warwickſhire, and Staffordſhire; and on the weſt this laſt county and Cheſhire. The rivers Merſey, Goyt, and Dove, form almoſt the whole of its weſtern limits from north to ſouth. The general figure of this county is triangular, gradually growing narrower to the ſouth, where it ends in a point. The extreme length is fifty miles; the breadth at the northern extremity about thirty-eight.

In Derbyſhire terminates the moſt conſpicuous part of the middle chain of hills out of the north; and great part of the county is occupied by it, particularly the northern and weſtern parts. The *Peak*, comprehending its north-weſtern angle, is one

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one of the moſt celebrated of the mountainous regions in England; for, though its hills do not ſoar to the height of thoſe in Cumberland, Weſtmoreland, and Wales, nor afford the romantic beauties of lakes, caſcades, and hanging woods, yet its ſituation in a more central part of the iſland, and its extraordinary caverns, perforations, and other curioſities, have cauſed it to be much known and viſited. The *Wonders of the Peak* have been deſcribed both in proſe and verſe; but language has little power to give adequate ideas of ſcenes of this kind.

The mineral products of this hilly tract are various and valuable. Lead, the moſt important of them, has been gotten in great abundance out of the Derbyſhire mines, but many of theſe are now exhauſted. Much lime is burned in the lower Peak, which is of the beſt quality, and is ſent to conſiderable diſtances on horſes' backs. Iron ore is dug chiefly on the north-eaſtern ſide. Calamine is found in the neighbourhood of the lead. Coals are plentiful in many parts, but

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but chiefly on the eaſtern ſide from north to ſouth. Marble is frequent in the hills; and ſome beautiful kinds of it are poliſhed at the works at *Aſhford*. The Derbyſhire ſpars are uncommonly elegant, and are wrought into a variety of ornamental articles. The numerous quarries yield ſtone for various purpoſes; among which is plenty of plaſter-ſtone, or gypſum, got at *Chelaſton*, ſouth of Derby.

The ſouthern part of the county and up to the middle of it, eſpecially on the eaſtern ſide, is, in general, a rich and well cultivated country, divided between arable and paſture. The weſtern ſide, on the banks of the Dove, is chiefly devoted to paſture; and much cheeſe, made in theſe parts, is ſent to London and other places. A ſingular object of culture in ſome parts of the county is that of camomile flowers, which are chiefly ſold to the London druggiſts.

On the hills and open moors of the Peak many horned cattle are bred; and in the ſummer large herds of young cattle are driven

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driven hither to feed from the neighbouring counties. A ſmall breed of ſheep are kept in great numbers in the hilly country.

The principal river of Derbyſhire is the *Derwent*, which, riſing in the high Peak, flows directly through the midſt of the county, dividing it into two nearly equal portions; and, after paſſing Derby, empties itſelf into the Trent on the borders of Leiceſterſhire.

The *Dove* holds a courſe parallel to the Derwent, between Staffordſhire and Derbyſhire, and alſo terminates in the Trent.

The *Trent* itſelf juſt croſſes the ſouthern angle of Derbyſhire, and, for a ſhort ſpace, makes its ſeparation from the counties of Leiceſter and Nottingham. On the borders of the laſt it is joined by the *Erewaſh*, a rivulet which forms a conſiderable ſhare of the eaſtern limit. The banks of the Trent are a tract of very fine meadows. Parallel to the courſe of this river runs the canal, making a junction between it and the Merſey, which joins the Trent at Wilden. A

canal

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canal alſo runs parallel to the Erewaſh for ſome miles through ſeveral collieries, and terminates in the Trent not far from the former.

The county town, *Derby*, is of conſiderable ſize, handſome, and well inhabited. It is particularly noted for its large ſilk-mill, the firſt of the kind erected in England, and taken from an Italian model. Its operations are to wind, double, and twiſt the ſilk, ſo as to render it fit for weaving. It has employed many hands in the town, but the work is now on the decline. Derby alſo poſſeſſes a conſiderable manufactory of ſilk, cotton, and fine worſted ſtockings; and has a fabric of porcelain, ſaid to be equal or ſuperior in quality to any in the kingdom. Several hands are employed in the lapidary and jewellery branches, and the work of this kind executed here is in high eſtimation. Derbyſhire and foreign marbles are alſo wrought here into a variety of ornamental articles. The malting trade is likewiſe conſiderable in this town. The Derwent is navigable from hence to the Trent.

Cheſterfield

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Cheſterfield is the next conſiderable trading town in this county. It has a manufactory of worſted and cotton ſtockings; and alſo of carpets, but of ſmall extent. Many ſhoes for the London market are made here. Four potteries, chiefly for brown ware, are eſtabliſhed here; and near the town are large iron founderies, the ore and coal for the ſupply of which are dug in the neighbourhood. Large quantities of coals and lead are ſent from Cheſterfield by the new canal cut from this town to the Trent, which it joins below Gainſborough. This conveyance alſo ſerves for the iron and other bulky goods.

Aſhborn, on the Dove, a market town, is noted for its fairs for cattle. In its neighbourhood is one of the moſt romantic ſpots in the county, *Dove-Dale*, where that river runs in a chaſm between precipitous rocks.

At *Cromford*, on the Derwent, ſome of the greateſt of the new cotton-mills have been erected by the late Sir Richard Arkwright, to whom this capital improvement of mechaniſm is due. By their means the branches of the cotton manufacture are now

ſpreading

ſpreading in this county; and a large ſupply of materials is alſo ſent from them to the Lancaſhire manufactories. A canal is lately carried from hence to join the Erewaſh navigation.

In that part of the Peak which borders on Yorkſhire, ſome woollen cloth is made; and in the neighbourhood of Sheffield the cutlery buſineſs extends into Derbyſhire. The hoſiery trade is carried on extenſively on the Nottinghamſhire border, and alſo at Litton near Tideſwell.

Several mineral waters are found in the hilly parts of Derbyſhire. Of theſe the moſt celebrated are the warm ſprings of *Buxton*, the temperature of which, being lower than of thoſe at Bath, is extremely agreeable for bathing; and they have been found of great uſe in various caſes, eſpecially of the rheumatic kind. This has occaſioned a great reſort of company, and a number of large and commodious buildings, in a place otherwiſe the moſt dreary and unpleaſant that can be conceived. A ſpacious creſcent

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for lodging rooms was erected ſome years ſince by the duke of Devonſhire, in a ſtyle of great magnificence and expence.

Matlock, on the Derwent, is alſo much frequented, partly on account of its bath (which is ſomewhat warmer than the common temperature), but ſtill more on account of the uncommon beauties of its ſituation.

Kedleſton near Derby has a ſulphureous water in conſiderable reputation for ſcorbutic diſorders and ulcers. At *Quarndon*, in its neighbourhood, is a fine chalybeat ſpring.

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STAFFORDSHIRE.

THIS is a long and narrow tract of country ending in a point at the northern and ſouthern extremities, having to the weſt the counties of Cheſter and Salop; to the eaſt thoſe of Derby and Warwick; and to the ſouth Worceſterſhire. The rivers Dove and Trent form a natural boundary on the Derbyſhire ſide; on the other ſides it has no remarkable limits. In length it extends about fifty-five miles; its extreme breadth does not exceed twenty-four.

The northern part of Staffordſhire, called the *Moorlands*, is a wild hilly country, reſembling the adjacent Derbyſhire. Its elevation may be judged of from the number of ſtreams which take their riſe in it, ſome of which run into oppoſite ſeas. Of theſe, the principal is the *Trent*, which, iſſuing from three ſeveral ſprings between Congleton and Leek, flows ſouthwards through the

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midſt of the county, continually augmented by rills from the ſame region; and at length, having received the *Tame* from the ſouth, acquires a new direction, and, with a north-eaſterly courſe penetrates into Derbyſhire, juſt after its junction with the *Dove*. This laſt river, riſing alſo in the Moorlands, runs between the counties of Derby and Stafford to the place where it meets the Trent, having received from the north of Staffordſhire the *Manyfold*, the *Churnet*, and ſeveral other ſtreams.

South of the Trent the principal rivers are the *Sow*, running parallel and near to that river till it falls into it below Stafford; and the *Penk*, flowing by Penkridge to join the Sow. The *Stour* runs through the ſouthern angle of the county in its courſe to meet the Severn in Worceſterſhire.

The valley along which the Trent glides is for the moſt part very fertile and beautiful, adorned with ſeats and plantations, and affording a variety of beautiful proſpects. The middle and ſouthern parts of the county

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in general are agreeably diverſified with wood, paſture, and arable. The great foreſt of *Cank* or *Cannock*, in the centre, once covered with oaks, is now and has long been a wide naked tract. At the ſouthern extremity the *Clent-hills*, *Hagley*, and its neighbourhood, are well known for the more romantic beauties which they poſſeſs. In this tract the counties of Stafford, Worceſter, and Salop, are ſtrangely intermixed.

Coal is abundant in various parts of Staffordſhire; particularly in the moorlands and the neighbourhood of Newcaſtle; and alſo about Wolverhampton, at Bliſton and Wedneſbury, whence Birmingham is chiefly ſupplied with its fuel. The northern and ſouthern parts alſo contain much iron ore.

This county has long been noted, and is now particularly famous, for its potteries; the chief ſeat of which is near Newcaſtle, in a line of villages extending about ten miles. The neighbourhood affords abundance of the moſt bulky materials for this buſineſs, viz. fire-clay and coals; but their finer

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finer clays are brought from Purbeck in Dorſetſhire, and other parts of that coaſt; and flints from the chalk pits near Graveſend, and ſome from Wales and Ireland. For the conveyance of theſe they have the benefit of water-carriage, either from Hull and Gainſborough, by means of the Trent, which communicates with the ſouthern extremity of the grand Staffordſhire canal; or from Liverpool, by means of the Merſey, and the duke of Bridgewater's navigation, to the northern extremity of the ſame canal. The manufactured goods are ſent away by the ſame conveyances. The perfection to which this manufacture has been brought, and the great elegance of the uſeful and ornamental articles of which it conſiſts, have rendered it a very important object of commerce, both foreign and domeſtic.

Some iron works are eſtabliſhed in the neighbourhood of Newcaſtle.

The ſouthern extremity of the county is enlivened by various branches of the hardware manufacture, in which it participates

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with the neighbouring Birmingham. *Walſall*, *Dudley*, and *Wolverhampton*, are concerned in this trade. The latter is a conſiderable town, which has long been famous for its lock manufactory, and now makes a great quantity of the japanned ware, as well as the heavier kinds of hardware.

The trade of this county is in a peculiar manner aſſiſted by the grand ſyſtem of canal navigation, of which it is, as it were, the centre, and which is carried through its whole length. The *grand trunk*, as it has been ingeniouſly termed, enters the north of the county from Cheſhire, and, after piercing Harecaſtle-hill, by a ſubterraneous paſſage of a mile and a half in length, paſſes through the potteries, and thence ſouthwards acroſs the Trent almoſt to Litchfield; from whence it turns ſhort over the Trent again, and over the Dove, in its way to mix with the Trent at Wilden-ferry. From the neighbourhood of Stafford it ſends off a branch which runs directly ſouthwards by Penkridge, and near Wolverhampton, to join the Severn

Severn near Kidderminſter. With this a canal from Birmingham and another from Stourbridge communicate. Thus the great ports of Briſtol, Liverpool, and Hull, are all acceſſible to the various products and manufactures of Staffordſhire.

Stafford, the county town, is of moderate ſize, and has little concern with trade.

The ſame may be ſaid of *Litchfield*, which unites with Coventry in forming a biſhop's ſee. It is a neat and well built place, and has a fine cathedral.

Burton upon the Trent is well known for the excellence of its malt liquor, great quantities of which are ſent down the river (which is navigable ſo far) to Hull, and exported to other parts of the kingdom and abroad.

Newcaſtle, diſtinguiſhed by the name of *under Line*, has a large manufactory of hats, both fine and coarſe. It alſo makes quantities of ſhoes.

Leek, in the Moorlands, has a ſhare in the ſilk and mohair manufactures, compriſing

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buttons, ferrets, handkerchiefs, twiſts, ſewing ſilks, &c.

On the weſtern border of the county near Drayton, is *Blore-heath*, where the party of York, under the earl of Saliſbury, defeated the Lancaſtrians commanded by lord Audley. Queen Margaret beheld the battle from a neighbouring ſteeple.

Hopton-heath, near Stafford, was the ſcene of a hot ſkirmiſh in the civil wars of Charles I. in which the royaliſts gained the advantage, though with the loſs of their commander, the earl of Northampton.

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LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE county of Leiceſter is bounded on the north by Nottinghamſhire and Derbyſhire, on the weſt by the latter county and Warwickſhire, on the ſouth by Northamptonſhire, and on the eaſt by the counties of Rutland and Lincoln. Its limits are but in a few places marked by nature. To the north the Soar and Trent form part of its boundary. The famous Roman road called Watling-ſtreet, and the ſmall river Ankor, are its limits on the Warwickſhire ſide; and the rivers Avon and Welland ſeparate it from Northamptonſhire. Its ſhape has been not unaptly compared to that of a ſhoulder of mutton with the ſhank cut off. Its greateſt length is about thirty-five miles, and its greateſt breadth near forty-five.

The principal river of Leiceſterſhire is the *Soar*, which, riſing in the ſouth-weſtern border, runs to Leiceſter, after which it

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receives the *Wreke* from the north-eaſt, and then turns to Mount-ſoar-hill and Loughborough, watering in its courſe meadows of uncommon beauty and fertility, till it falls into the Trent not far from Cavendiſh-bridge.

The ſoil of this county is various, but for the moſt part is ſtrong and ſtiff, compoſed of clay and marl: hence it affords great quantities of rich grazing land, and is peculiarly fitted for the culture of beans; for which it is proverbially noted. The proportion of paſture and meadow land through the whole county much exceeds that of arable. There are few open fields now left; and the quantity of waſte ground is proportionally very ſmall. The ſurface is in moſt parts varied and uneven. Towards the north-weſt the *Bardon-hills* riſe to a conſiderable height; and in their neighbourhood lies *Charnwood* or *Charley-foreſt*, a rough and open tract. Further to the north-weſt are valuable coal mines, which ſupply the country round to a great diſtance.

The

The north-eaſtern part feeds great numbers of ſheep, a principal article of the wealth of its inhabitants. The Leiceſterſhire ſheep are of very large ſize, without horns, and clothed with thick long flakes of ſoft wool, particularly fit for the worſted manufactures. Of theſe the *Poet of the Fleece* thus ſpeaks:

> Need we the level greens of Lincoln note,
> Or rich Leiceſtria's marly plains, for length
> Of whiteſt locks, and magnitude of fleece
> Peculiar; envy of the neighb'ring realms.
>
> DYER.

The eaſtern and ſouth-eaſtern part of the county is a rich grazing tract, which breeds numbers of cattle of large ſize, to ſupply the London and other markets. This county, indeed, has long been famous for its large black horſes and horned cattle, as well as its ſheep; and its reputation has lately been much extended by the great ſkill and attention of *Mr. Bakewell*, at *Diſhley*, near Loughborough, who has bred every ſpecies of domeſtic quadruped to the utmoſt perfection

fection of form and ſize. He has, indeed, as it were created new breeds of theſe animals, in which, with perfect ſymmetry of ſhape, he has united the greateſt quantity of fleſh with the ſmalleſt poſſible proportion of bone and offal. His breed of ſheep, called the new Leiceſter, has in great meaſure taken place of the old breed, and is diſperſed through moſt counties in the kingdom.

Much cheeſe is made in the weſtern ſide of the county about *Leiceſter-foreſt*, and in ſome other parts. The rich kind called Stilton is made in the villages round *Melton Mowbray*.

This is ſo much of a farming country, that manufactures have not made much progreſs in it, except one, connected with its great product of wool, the ſtocking trade. The chief ſeat of this is at the county-town,

Leiceſter, a place of great antiquity, but much fallen off from its former magnitude and importance. It ſuffered much in the various civil commotions of this kingdom; and in thoſe under Charles I. was ſtormed by

by the royaliſts with conſiderable ſlaughter. It is ſtill a populous, but by no means a handſome, town. The combing and ſpinning of wool into worſted, and manufacturing it into ſtockings and other hoſiery articles, is the chief buſineſs of Leiceſter and its neighbourhood. The goods are chiefly of the coarſe kinds, and are partly taken off by home conſumption, partly exported. They are conveyed away by land carriage. In theſe manufactures the Leiceſterſhire wool is in part conſumed: the remainder is ſent into Yorkſhire for making woollen ſtuffs. The trade of Leiceſter was long nearly ſtationary, owing to the want of that ſpirit of improvement which has ſo much advanced many other trading places; but of late years a favourable change has taken place in this reſpect. The benefits of water-communication have lately been extended to it, by making its river navigable, with the aſſiſtance of canals, to the Trent.

In the meadows near this town are the ruins of an abbey, at which that great and ambitious

ambitious miniſter Cardinal Wolſey ended his life, under the preſſure of ſickneſs and diſgrace, as it is moſt pathetically deſcribed by Shakeſpeare.

Hinkley is a thriving town, which has been greatly increaſed of late years by the hoſiery buſineſs.

Loughborough participates in the ſame trade. It has the advantage of a canal to the Trent.

Lutterworth, a ſmall market town, is memorable for having been the reſidence of the great Engliſh reformer Wickliffe, who diffuſed his opinions widely in theſe parts.

Melton-Mowbray has a great market for cattle. Its river is made navigable to its junction with the Soar.

Near *Market-Boſworth* is the field of battle where the bloody Richard III. loſt his crown and life together, valiantly fighting againſt the earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry VII.

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RUTLANDSHIRE.

This ſmall county, the leaſt in England, encircled by the counties of Lincoln, Leiceſter, and Northampton, and ſeeming as if it were cut out of the two former, is of a roundiſh figure; in length fourteen or fifteen miles, and in breadth ten or twelve. It is ſuppoſed to have received its name from the red colour of the ſoil, which, in ſome parts, is a ſort of ruddle, ſtaining the fleeces of the ſheep.

Rutland is bleſt with a pure air and a fertile ſoil, and is beautifully varied in its ſurface with gentle ſwells and depreſſions. The riſing grounds run eaſt and weſt with vallies intervening about half a mile wide. It abounds in clear ſoft ſprings, guſhing from the ſides of the hills. The ſoil varies, but is generally fertile. That of the eaſt and ſouth-eaſt parts is moſtly ſhallow, upon a limeſtone rock; the other parts are a ſtrong

ſtrong loam with red earth, or a clay. The products of Rutland are chiefly corn and ſheep. Some of the fineſt ſeed-wheat in the kingdom is grown in its fields; and its fitneſs for ſheep is particularly noted by the poet Dyer, when enumerating the moſt favourable ſpots for this animal:

——————— ſuch the clover'd lawns
And ſunny mounts of beauteous Normanton,
Health's cheerful haunt, and the ſelected walk
Of Heathcote's leiſure.

FLEECE.

The more ancient poet Drayton, celebrates this county as containing in its ſmall compaſs three objects of great beauty and utility.

Small ſhire that can produce to thy proportion good
One vale of ſpecial name, one foreſt, and one flood.

POLYOLBION.

The vale is that rich one of *Catmoſe*, running from the weſtern ſide to the centre of the county, and comprehending the county-town, Okeham. It is croſſed by the little

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river *Guaſh* or *Waſh*, which, riſing in Leiceſterſhire, winds through the midſt of Rutlandſhire, and joins the *Welland* a little below Stamford. This latter river waſhes the ſouth-eaſtern ſide of the county, ſeparating it from Northamptonſhire.

The ſouth-weſtern part was formerly entirely occupied by the foreſt of *Liffield*, part of which ſtill remains in its original ſtate, and is ſtocked with deer.

Two market towns are all that this little province poſſeſſes, *Okeham* and *Uppingham*; the former the county-town; but the latter reckoned to have the beſt market. Neither of them is conſiderable for trade or populouſneſs.

This county has no manufacture of conſequence.

At *Ketton*, near Stamford, are large quarries of limeſtone, which ſupply the county round with that article.

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE county of Northampton, lying obliquely acroſs the middle of England, is in contact with more ſurrounding ones than any other in the kingdom. To the north and north-weſt it has the counties of Lincoln, Rutland, and Leiceſter; from the two former and part of the latter of which it is ſeparated by the river Welland; to the weſt it has Warwickſhire; to the ſouth Oxfordſhire and Buckinghamſhire; to the eaſt Bedfordſhire and Huntingdonſhire, with a ſmall point of Cambridgeſhire. The poſition of this county is from ſouth-weſt to north-eaſt, and it ſtretches in this direction the length of ſixty miles. Its greateſt breadth is only about twenty miles, and it goes on narrowing as it proceeds northwards.

Northamptonſhire is in a manner proverbially regarded as a fine and pleaſant county, which opinion is confirmed by the

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number of noblemen's and gentlemen's ſeats contained in it. Its greateſt defect is the ſcarcity of fuel, a neceſſary of life but ſcantily ſupplied by its woods, which, like thoſe in all other parts of the kingdom, have been much diminiſhed by agriculture. Yet it ſtill poſſeſſes ſome not inconſiderable remains of its old foreſts, particularly thoſe of *Rockingham* in the north-weſt, and of *Salcey* and *Whittlebury* in the ſouth. In this laſt, that fierceſt of Britiſh animals of prey, the wild cat, is ſtill found. Many ſmaller woods are interſperſed throughout the county.

The higheſt ground in Northamptonſhire is in the neighbourhood of Daventry, where the Nen and Cherwell, which flow into the eaſtern ſea, and the Leam, which flows into the weſtern, riſe within a ſmall compaſs. A little further northwards the Avon and Welland, running into oppoſite ſeas, ſpring near each other. About Towceſter, in the ſouth, the country is alſo hilly, and the ſoil intermixed with clay and a ſort of coarſe grit-ſtone.

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The principal river of Northamptonſhire is the *Nine* or *Nen*, which, riſing in the weſt, flows firſt acroſs the county to the eaſtern ſide, and then, turning more northward, accompanies the whole remaining length of it. From Northampton it is made navigable, and thus gives admiſſion, though at a dear rate, to the ſea-coal which is ſo much wanted in this county. It receives many ſmall ſtreams riſing from the north-weſtern ſide; and at Peterborough leaves the county in its progreſs acroſs the iſle of Ely to join the ſea in Lincolnſhire. This extreme point of Northamptonſhire, ſurrounded and interſected by rivers, is very liable to inundations, and forms the commencement of the fenny tract which extends to the Lincolnſhire Waſhes.

The *Ouſe* juſt touches on the ſouth-eaſtern corner of the county, forming a tract of rich meadows about Stony Stratford.

The products of Northamptonſhire are in general the ſame with thoſe of other farming countries. It is, indeed, peculiarly celebrated

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brated for grazing land; that tract eſpecially lying from Northampton northwards to the Leiceſterſhire border. Horned cattle and other animals are here fed to extraordinary ſizes, and many horſes of the large black breed are reared. Woad for the dyer's uſe is cultivated in this part. Much of the arable in this county is ſtill open-field land; and many ſheep are fed on the high grounds.

Northamptonſhire is not eminent for manufactures, nor are its towns remarkable for ſize or opulence.

Northampton, the capital, is a handſome well-built town, in a very healthy ſituation. Its principal manufactory is that of boots and ſhoes, of which many are made here, and in other parts of the county, for exportation. It has alſo ſome trade in wool-combing and jerſey-ſpinning. The horſe fairs of this place are greatly reſorted to. In the meadows below the town was fought in 1460 a battle between the forces of Henry VI. and the Yorkiſts, in which the former

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were defeated, and the king made priſoner. Not far from Northampton is a fine gothic edifice called *Queen's croſs*, erected by king Edward I. to the memory of his beloved queen Eleanor.

Daventry has a conſiderable manufactory of whips and ſilk ſtockings.

Wellingborough does much buſineſs in the boot and ſhoe manufacture, and the lace trade.

The principal employment of *Kettering* is the ſpinning of jerſey and ſome lace-making.

Thrapſton and *Oundle* on the Nen have a ſhare in the import and export trade of that river.

The city of *Peterborough* is of ſmall ſize, but well built; and poſſeſſes a fine old cathedral. It has a trade in corn, coals, and timber.

Fotheringay-caſtle near Oundle is noted as the laſt place of confinement, and at length, of the execution, of Mary queen of Scots, who, in 1586, ſuffered here, with the greateſt conſtancy, the death to which ſhe was ſo unjuſtly ſentenced.

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But the moſt important event which happened in this county was the deciſive battle fought in 1645 at *Naſeby*, near the borders of Leiceſterſhire, between Charles I. and the Parliament army commanded by Fairfax, which terminated in the total defeat and conſequent ruin of that unfortunate king.

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WARWICKSHIRE.

THIS county, of an irregularly oval figure, terminating in a point at the north and ſouth, is bordered upon almoſt equally by ſix counties, viz. Staffordſhire, Worceſterſhire, and Glouceſterſhire, on the weſtern ſide from north to ſouth; and Leiceſterſhire, Northamptonſhire, and Oxfordſhire, on the eaſtern ſide in the ſame order. Its length, from the northern to the ſouthern extremity, is almoſt fifty miles; its breadth, acroſs the middle, thirty-two. In ſituation it is the moſt central in the kingdom.

The river *Avon*, croſſing Warwickſhire in a very meandering courſe from the eaſt to the ſouth-weſt, divides it into two portions; of which the northern, and largeſt, was anciently almoſt an entire foreſt; while the ſouthern was a champaign and cultivated country.

The woodland diviſion, though now, for the

the moſt part cleared and cultivated, ſtill retains ſomewhat of its wild character, being interſperſed with wide heaths and moors, and ſprinkled with woods. A large tract of it bears the noted foreſt-name of *Arden*. The northern part has a gravelly ſoil; but this changes to clay on advancing towards the middle. The principal ſtream in the north of this county is the *Tame*, which, coming out of Staffordſhire, makes a ſweep acroſs a corner of Warwickſhire; and after receiving ſeveral of its rivulets, and, among the reſt, the *Ankor* at Tamworth, returns at that town into Staffordſhire. Much cheeſe of a good kind is made in this northern part of the county; and it contains coal and limeſtone.

The ſouthern portion, formerly called the *Feldon*, is a tract of great fertility, and very productive of corn. Its chief river is the *Leam*, which joins the Avon near Warwick. *Dunſmore-heath*, between theſe two rivers, now moſtly encloſed, is the ſcene of ſome of the fabulous ſtories related of the famous Guy earl of Warwick.

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On the borders of Oxfordſhire is a low ridge called the *Edge-hills*. Here was fought in 1642 the firſt pitched battle between the forces of Charles I. and the Parliament, the event of which was indeciſive, each party claiming the victory. Beneath this ridge lies the fruitful vale of *Red-horſe*, extending up into Warwickſhire. On the Northamptonſhire border are ſome ſheep paſtures of excellent quality.

It is ſuppoſed on the whole, that about one fourth of the whole county is under a ſucceſſive round of tillage; and of the remaining three fourths, the greater part is meadow and paſture, and about one fourth of it waſte. Hence Warwickſhire is principally characterized as a feeding and dairy county, and many of its breeds of cattle and ſheep are of a ſuperior kind. There are large woods and much timber of all kinds, eſpecially of oak, in the county, particularly in that part which was the ancient foreſt of Arden; and the woodlands are kept under a regular ſyſtem of management. A conſiderable

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ſiderable quantity of flax is grown and manufactured in Warwickſhire.

Warwick, the capital of the county, is an ancient and neat town, ſituated upon a rocky eminence above the Avon, and crowned with a fine caſtle of the earls of Warwick, ſtill inhabited. It is not a place of trade.

The city of *Coventry*, a joint biſhop's ſee with Litchfield, is a large and populous place, frequently mentioned in Engliſh hiſtory. It had very early a great trade in various articles of manufacture; as cloths, ſtuffs, thread, &c. At preſent the principal branch is that of ſilk ribbons, which employs a number of hands. The goods are ſent to London by waggons. Some gauzes are, beſides, made here, and ſome camlets and laſtings. The buildings of this city are in general mean and ancient, and its ſtreets narrow. Here is the head of a canal, intended to join the Staffordſhire grand trunk with the Thames at Oxford.

Nun Eaton, to the north of Coventry, partakes with it in the ribbon manufactory.

But

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But this county derives its principal conſequence, as a commercial one, from the town of *Birmingham*, ſituated in a corner of its north-weſtern ſide. For a conſiderable period its hardware manufactures have been noted; but of late years, by great additions to its trade from a vaſt variety of uſeful and ornamental articles, ſuch as metal buttons, buckles, plated goods of all kinds, japanned and paper ware, &c. it has riſen to be ſuperior in populouſneſs to any of the other modern trading towns in England, and has filled the ſurrounding country with induſtrious inhabitants. It is plentifully ſupplied with that important article coals, by means of a canal to Wedneſbury in Staffordſhire; and it has a communication with the great trunk from the Trent to the Severn, by means of a branch paſſing by Wolverhampton. The Birmingham goods are diſperſed about the kingdom, but chiefly ſent to London by land carriage. They are exported in great quantities to foreign countries, where, in point of cheapneſs and ſhow united, they are

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are unrivalled; ſo that Birmingham is become, according to the emphatical expreſſion of a great orator, the *toy-ſhop of Europe.*

The improved ſteam engines made here by Meſſrs. Bolton and Watt deſerve, however, to rank higher than toys among the productions of human ingenuity. Their application to various mechanical purpoſes, and particularly to the draining of mines which were before entirely overpowered by water, places them among the moſt valuable inventions of the age.

The town of *Stratford upon Avon* has obtained fame on a very different ground; for here, the pride of Engliſhmen and delight of the theatre,

> —— ſweeteſt Shakeſpear, fancy's child,
> Warbled his native wood-notes wild.

Kenelworth Caſtle, betwixt Warwick and Coventry, was the ſcene of great magnificence in the reign of queen Elizabeth, who was here entertained with all the ſplendour the age could afford, by her favourite, Dudley earl of Leiceſter.

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WORCESTERSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by thoſe of Salop and Stafford; on the weſt by Herefordſhire; on the ſouth by Glouceſterſhire; and on the eaſt by Warwickſhire. Its figure is very irregular: and it is remarkable for having ſeveral detached portions ſprinkled about the neighbouring counties; a conſequence, probably, of its having no natural boundaries. Its meaſurements, on this account, can ſcarcely be ſtated; but the greateſt length may be about thirty miles, and breadth about twenty.

The *Severn*, entering this county from Shropſhire, runs through its whole length; and, with the ſtreams falling into it, of which the principal are the *Teme* or *Tend* from the north-weſt, the *Salwarp* from the north-eaſt, the *Stour* from the north, and the *Avon* from the ſouth-eaſt, contributes to render the ſoil extremely fertile. The face of the country

country is diverſified with hill and vale. Of the hills, the principal are, the *Lickey* near Bromſgrove in the north, *Aberley* hill in the weſt, the *Malvern* hills in the ſouth-weſt, and the *Bredon* hills in the ſouth-eaſt.

Of the vale in which the Severn runs in this county Dyer thus ſpeaks;

> The vale of Severn, Nature's garden wide,
> By the blue ſteeps of diſtant Malvern wall'd,
> Solemnly vaſt. The trees of various ſhade,
> Scene behind ſcene, with fair deluſive pomp,
> Enrich the proſpect. FLEECE.

Another vale of great fame for fertility and beauty is that of *Eveſham*, on the banks of the *Avon*, which flows along the ſouth-eaſtern part of the county in its courſe to meet the Severn. Beſides the uſual objects of agriculture, great quantities of garden-ſtuff are here grown, and ſent to the towns around to a conſiderable diſtance. In this vale fell Simon de Montfort, with many of his party, under the arms of prince Edward, ſon of Henry III. in the *Barons' war* againſt that king.

The

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The products of Worceſterſhire, beſides the common ones of corn and cattle, are fine wool, hops, cyder and perry: the latter, eſpecially, is in great reputation. A large quantity of the whiteſt ſalt is made from the brine ſprings at *Droitwich*, and ſent to Briſtol and other places. The Severn, in this county and Glouceſterſhire, abounds with lampreys, which by ſome are much valued as a delicacy. In the Malvern hills a ſpring riſes, of uncommon purity, which is much reſorted to in ſcrofulous and ſcorbutic caſes.

The capital, *Worceſter*, ſeated on the Severn, is a large and handſome city, inhabited by many gentry, and alſo carrying on a conſiderable trade in the manufacture of woollen ſtuffs and gloves. It has likewiſe a manufactory of elegant china-ware. Here Cromwell, in 1651, obtained what he called his crowning victory over the Scotch army, which had marched into England for the purpoſe of placing Charles II. on the throne. It was after this defeat that the unfortunate prince

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prince underwent ſuch fatigues and romantic hazards in eſcaping from his enemies.

Dudley, which, though encloſed in Staffordſhire, is under the juriſdiction of this county, partakes in the hardware manufactures.

Stourbridge, in its neighbourhood, upon the river Stour, is noted for its glaſs and iron works.

Kidderminſter, on the ſame river, is the principal manufacturing place in this county. Its former trade of ſtuffs has much declined on account of the rivalſhip of the cottons; but the carpet manufactory has greatly increaſed; and this town has the firſt market in England for pile or pluſh carpets, which, for beauty of colours and patterns, exceed any other. Theſe are frequently called *Wilton*, from having been firſt made at that town; but at preſent, by much the greater part are made at Kidderminſter. The worſted-ſhag trade has alſo been introduced here, and employs a good many looms. The goods go chiefly to Portugal; and their

their carriage has been much facilitated by the late canal communications.

Stour-port, near Kidderminſter, where the Staffordſhire and Worceſterſhire canal joins the Severn, is a new creation, and, from a plain field, is become in a few years a thriving and very buſy centre of inland water carriage.

GLOUCESTER-

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

This county is bounded on the north by Worceſterſhire, on the eaſt by Warwickſhire and Oxfordſhire, on the ſouth by Wiltſhire and part of Somerſetſhire, and on the weſt by the counties of Monmouth and Hereford. It ſtretches from north-eaſt to ſouth-weſt to the extent of more than ſixty miles; but never exceeds twenty-ſix in breadth. It is divided into two unequal parts by the *Severn*, which, entering Glouceſterſhire a little above Tewkeſbury, and joined by the current of the *Avon*, haſtens to diffuſe fertility over the ſpacious vale through which it flows.

The lower part of its weſtern boundary (remarkable for the picturesque ſcenery of its borders) is formed by the *Wye*, which, reaching this county a little below Roſs in Herefordſhire, ſeparates it for the reſt of its progreſs from the county of Monmouth.

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Its ſouth-weſtern extremity is divided from Somerſetſhire by the *Lower Avon*, which, though unequal to the Warwickſhire Avon in the beauty of its ſtream, runs between more romantic banks, and forces its paſſage to the ſea through St. Vincent's rocks, below the city of Briſtol. The tides from St. George's Channel, meeting with the powerful tides from the Atlantic, enter the mouths of the Severn and its tributary ſtreams with a rapid influx; and, rolling on with a lofty head, received from our earlieſt hiſtorians the name of the *Hygra*. Of theſe rivers, the Severn and the Wye abound with excellent ſalmon, which, by means of the flying coaches, find a ready paſſport to the markets of the metropolis.

Glouceſterſhire is naturally divided into three longitudinal ſtripes, or diſtricts, which differ materially from each other.

The eaſtern ſtripe, which is much the wideſt, is called the *Cotefwold*. This is a long tract of high ground, for the moſt part bleak and bare, yet affording in many places a ſhort

a ſhort fine graſs, for the feed of ſheep, and at preſent principally devoted to the growth of corn.

> High Coteſwold alſo 'mong the ſhepherd ſwains
> Is oft remember'd, though the greedy plough
> Preys on its carpet. FLEECE.

The native ſheep of this diſtrict were a ſmall light kind, with a very fine but ſcanty fleece. The breed has of late years been improved by mixtures from other counties, with reſpect to weight of carcaſs and quantity of wool, though at the ſame time the wool has been rendered coarſer. It is ſtill, however, in high eſteem as combing wool. Coteſwold is diſtinguiſhed for the cultivation of that excellent artificial graſs, ſainfoin, which is uſed both for paſture and hay.

The ſides of this long range are extremely beautiful as they ſink into the vale, from the hills of *Stinchcomb* and *Nibley* in the ſouth, to that of *Bredon* in the north, which has been celebrated in ancient rhyme. The

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Stroudwater hills form a tract connected with and similar to the Coteſwold, but of a lighter ſoil.

The middle ſtripe is the ſpacious and extenſive vale bordering on the Severn, whoſe fertile paſtures furniſh the kingdom with that cheeſe for which the county is juſtly famous. This vale, communicating with that of *Eveſham* of more contracted dimenſions, has received, for no aſſignable reaſon, the ſame general title.

The weſtern, which is by much the ſhorteſt diſtrict, is wholly varied with hill and dale; and is chiefly occupied by the *foreſt of Deane*, once reckoned the chief ſupport of the Engliſh navy, and which, it is ſaid, the Armada was expreſsly commiſſioned to deſtroy. It is now thinned by frequency of felling, and narrowed by increaſe of cultivation, though a few ſolitary deer ſtill continue to run wild in its receſſes.

The ſtaple commodities of this county are its woollen cloth and its cheeſe. At *Durſley*, *Wotton*, *Painſwick*, *Minchin-Hampton*, and the

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the neighbourhood, white cloths are chiefly made for the army, and the Turkey and India trades, many of which are dyed in London, but all in the piece. The Glouceſterſhire cheeſe has been reckoned the beſt which the kingdom produces, unleſs we except the Cheſhire, of which the comparative cheapneſs may perhaps be conſidered as a proof of the inferiority. In both theſe articles of trade the county is now ſomewhat on the decline. Its cloth has been ſucceſſfully rivalled in Yorkſhire, and its cheeſe in North Wiltſhire.

Beſides theſe ſtaple commodities, the foreſts of *Deane* and *Kingſwood* abound in mines of iron and coal; of which the coal is principally expended in the internal conſumption of this and the neighbouring counties, and the iron is hammered out in numerous forges, and manufactured for different purpoſes in ſome capital iron works.

The vale and the foreſt of Deane abound in orchards, which are ſuppoſed to occupy the place of ancient vineyards, and which

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annually produce great plenty of excellent cyder. The *Styre*, a kind in great eſteem, is almoſt peculiar to the weſtern banks of the Severn. Some of the perry of this diſtrict is the baſis of moſt of the wine ſold for Champagne in the metropolis. The bacon of this county is alſo in high reputation, and forms a conſiderable article of its domeſtic commerce.

If we enter Glouceſterſhire with the Severn, the firſt object of curioſity at the confluence of that river with the Avon, is the town of *Tewkeſbury*, formerly noted for the excellence of its muſtard, but now only diſtinguiſhed (as to its trade) for a manufactory of cotton ſtockings. But its church, and the ruins of its monaſtery, are moſt worthy of notice; the former of which contains the relics of thoſe who fell at the battle of Tewkeſbury, and, among the reſt, of prince Edward, ſon of Henry VI. who was butchered in cold blood after the engagement. This was fought in 1471, and proved deciſive againſt the Lancaſtrians, who were never

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never afterwards able to make head againſt Edward IV.

Not far from hence is the *iſle of Eight*, in the Severn, where, as ſome ſuppoſe, the ſingle combat between Edmund Ironſide and Canute the Great was terminated by an amicable reſolution of dividing the crown.

As we proceed down the river, at ſome little diſtance to the left, lies the town of *Cheltenham*, noted for its purgative chalybeat ſpring, which has rendered it of late years a place of faſhionable reſort. It is no leſs remarkable for being ſituated in a deep ſand, very rarely to be met with in any other part of the county.

We next approach the city of *Glouceſter*, the capital of the county, which has lately been much improved, and whoſe four principal ſtreets are admired for the regularity of their junction in the centre of the town. A pin-manufactory affords the principal employment to the inhabitants of Glouceſter. It is alſo engaged in the traffic up and down the Severn. A magnificent plan is formed

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of a canal from hence to the mouth of the Severn, capable of being navigated by veſſels of conſiderable burthen. A canal is already made from Glouceſter to Hereford, through Ledbury.

Still following the courſe of the river to the ſea, we leave, about ſeven miles to the eaſtward, the town of *Stroud*, built on the ſide of a little ſtream, the properties of which are ſaid to be peculiarly adapted to the dying of ſcarlet. For this reaſon its banks are crowded with the houſes of clothiers; and the rivulet being itſelf inconſiderable, a navigable canal accompanies its progreſs to the Severn. This canal, with great expenſe and labour, is now extending to join the Thames at Lechlade; the head of whoſe noble ſtream lies in the borders of this county about two miles from Cirenceſter, on the edge of the high road between that town and Tetbury.

Cirenceſter was a place of eminence in former days. It is at preſent a great thoroughfare, and one of the moſt conſiderable towns

towns in Glouceſterſhire; though its wool market, for which it was in later times more peculiarly famous, has gradually dwindled away, as the practice of buying up wool in the country has increaſed. Adjoining to this town is the extenſive park of Lord Bathurſt, which has been uniformly mentioned with commendation ſince the time of Pope, and has certainly received more than its due ſhare of celebrity.

Tetbury is likewiſe a place of ſome importance; but its market for the ſtaple commodities of the county, wool and cheeſe, has of late years ſuffered a gradual decline, like that of its neighbour. The chief ornament of Tetbury is its newly-erected church, built in a ſpirited imitation of gothic models.

Advancing nearer to the Briſtol channel we paſs the towers of *Berkeley caſtle*, where the unfortunate Edward II. long haraſſed by the miſeries of confinement, was at length inhumanly murdered. This is the direful event alluded to by the prophetic bard, in

The

The ſhrieks of death thro' Berkley's roofs that ring,
Shrieks of an agonizing king.

GRAY'S BARD.

This caſtle was originally a nunnery; and, in the times of ſuperſtition, the rich *vale* abounded in edifices dedicated to religion.

The great commercial city of Briſtol is ſituated partly on the Glouceſterſhire and partly on the Somerſetſhire ſide of the river Avon. Its largeſt portion is within Glouceſterſhire; but as the city, before it was made a county of itſelf, was adjudged to Somerſetſhire, we ſhall take notice of it under that county. The rocks of *St. Vincent* and the *Hot Wells* beneath them, however, belong to the county we are now treating of. In the former are found thoſe native cryſtals ſo well known under the name of Briſtol ſtones. The latter are warm ſprings, of great purity, which have obtained a high reputation in the treatment of conſumptive caſes.

OXFORDSHIRE.

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OXFORDSHIRE.

This county on the north is bounded by Warwickſhire and Northamptonſhire, on the weſt by Glouceſterſhire, on the ſouth by Berkſhire, and on the eaſt by Buckinghamſhire. The Thames gives it a natural limit on the whole ſouthern ſide; and indeed the importance of this river is ſhown by no circumſtance more than its ſerving as a boundary to the contiguous counties on each ſide, for almoſt the whole of its courſe. Under the name of *Thames* is here included its principal branch the *Iſis*; for, in fact, the beſt writers aſſert that Iſis is a mere poetical name, not known by the inhabitants of its banks, who uniformly call the principal river the Thames, quite up to its head. Iſis is the ancient name *Ouſe*, common to ſo many rivers, latinized.

The figure of this county is ſingularly irregular, conſiſting, as it were, of two parts; a broader

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a broader northern, and narrower ſouthern, with a ſtill narrower neck between the two. The three counties of Buckingham, Oxford, and Berks, each of itſelf very irregularly ſhaped, are ſo fitted to each other, as to form together a pretty regular circular tract. The extreme length of Oxfordſhire is forty-eight miles; its greateſt breadth twenty-ſix.

With reſpect to ſoil and face of country; the northern corner is chiefly ſtrong deep land, partly arable, partly paſture, appropriated to the dairy. South of this is an extenſive tract, the hilly part of which has a ſhallow ſtony ſoil. The bottoms are clayey, and afford good paſture by the ſides of the rivers. The ſouth-weſt corner contains the foreſt of Whichwood, great part of which is woodland. Below it, nearer to the Iſis, the ſituation is low and wet, and the land chiefly meadow and paſture. About Oxford, to the north and ſouth, the ſoil is various, part being light and ſandy, part deep and rich. Near to Stanton St. John is a conſiderable tract of woodland. On the

the banks of the Thame the land is chiefly paſture. Between it and the Chilterns is moſtly arable, bordered by a range of downs. The Chiltern hills form a wide tract, of which the ſoil is chalk mixed with ſome loam and clay, but very full of flints. Much of this is covered with beech woods, but there are large waſtes, and alſo conſiderable encloſures, and ſome vallies of meadow land bordering the Thames.

The middle of the county is watered by numerous ſtreams, running from north to ſouth, and terminating in the Thames. Of theſe the moſt conſiderable are, the *Windruſh*, coming down from Burford and Witney; the *Evenlode*, from the neighbourhood of Chipping-Norton; and the *Cherwell*, which riſing in the moſt northern part of the county, paſſes Banbury, and, after collecting the waters of many rivulets, mixes with the leading ſtream at Oxford.

The *Tame*, commonly ſuppoſed to give name to the Thames, is an inconſiderable rivulet, which, flowing by the town of

Tame, bends round to meet the imaginary Iſis above Wallingford.

The products of Oxfordſhire are chiefly thoſe common to the midland farming counties. Its hills yield ochre, pipe clay, and other earths, uſeful for various purpoſes. Corn and malt are tranſmitted from it by means of the Thames to the metropolis. Good cheeſe is made in the grazing parts. In the encloſed parts about the middle, much butter is made, and many calves reared, the veal of which is ſent to London. The greateſt want in this county is that of fuel; for, moſt of the woods with which it once abounded being cut down or greatly diminiſhed, it is neceſſary to ſupply the deficiency of fire-wood with ſea-coal, brought by a long and troubleſome navigation from London. The intended junction of the Thames with the Trent and Merſey, by a canal paſſing through Oxfordſhire, will, in ſome meaſure, remedy this inconvenience, which is ſeverely felt by the poor, the county in general having a cold climate, eſpecially in

in the north-weſtern diviſion, where the fences are chiefly ſtone.

The great glory of this county is its capital, the city of *Oxford*, containing the largeſt of the two Engliſh univerſities; a ſeat of learning with the reputation of which the whole literary world is ſufficiently acquainted. It conſiſts of twenty-five colleges and halls, many of them buildings of great ſize and magnificence, and very richly endowed. The appearance of theſe edifices, and other public ſtructures, ſome of antique, and others of modern, architecture, diſpoſed in the ſpacious ſtreets of a city of itſelf handſomely built, and finely ſituated, produces an effect ſingularly ſtriking and majeſtic.

Oxford is as renowned a ſeat of loyalty as of erudition; many of our kings having for a time reſided here, and ſummoned hither their parliaments. The unfortunate Charles I. here held his court during the whole civil wars, whence it became a ſort of centre of various military exploits in this and

and the ſurrounding counties. One of theſe, the ſkirmiſh at *Chalgrave*, near Watlington, in 1643, deſerves to be commemorated, as having coſt the life of that great patriot John Hampden, whoſe firm reſiſtance to the arbitrary meaſures of the court was a principal cauſe of the war.

Witney is a populous town, noted for its manufactory of the fineſt blankets, and other thick woollens, called bear-ſkins and kerſeys. For theſe articles fine wool is brought from Herefordſhire and Worceſterſhire, and coarſe from Lincolnſhire. The goods are all ſent by land to London. The fineſt blankets are exported to Spain and Portugal: the coarſe woollens to Canada and other parts of North America.

Woodſtock, a ſmall town north of Oxford, has a manufactory of ornamental goods in poliſhed ſteel, which employs a few hands; and another of gloves. It was formerly famous for its royal park, in the intricate receſſes of which king Henry II. concealed his miſtreſs, the fair Roſamond. The ſpot

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is now no leſs celebrated for the magnificent feat of *Blenheim*, a gift of the Britiſh parliament to the great Duke of Marlborough, on account of his ſignal victory over the French at Hochſtet, or Blenheim, in Germany.

Banbury, in the northern extremity of the county, is noted for its malt liquor and cheeſe. It has a manufactory of worſted ſhags. Near this place, in 1469, the Earl of Warwick, at the head of the Lancaſtrians, defeated the Yorkiſts, and made Edward IV. priſoner.

At *Hogs* or *Hook Norton*, on the Warwickſhire border, the Engliſh ſuſtained a memorable defeat from the Danes, about the year 914.

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THIS county is contiguous to Northamptonſhire on the north, Oxfordſhire on the weſt, Berkſhire and a point of Surry on the ſouth, and the counties of Middleſex, Hertford, and Bedford, on the eaſt. Its principal natural boundary is the Thames, which borders its whole ſouthern ſide. The Coln alſo ſeparates it from Middleſex; and other ſtreams take up the boundary in different parts. Its figure tends to a creſcent, but its outline is rendered very irregular by projections and indentations. From the ſouth-eaſtern to the north-weſtern extremity it meaſures upwards of fifty miles, while its greateſt breadth is little more than ſixteen.

The ſouthern part of Buckinghamſhire, beyond the banks of the Thames, is principally taken up with the *Chiltern-hills* and their appendages, compoſed of chalk, and in various parts covered with woods. Some

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of its eminences are of conſiderable height, and afford fine proſpects.

Beyond theſe, the rich *Vale of Ayleſbury*, one of the moſt fertile tracts in the kingdom, occupies the middle of the county; and a varied country, riſing into gentle ſand-hills on the Bedfordſhire border, extends over the northern part.

The river *Ouſe*, entering Buckinghamſhire on the weſtern ſide, and then turning northwards, croſſes over at length near the northern extremity, marking its courſe by a tract of rich meadows.

> Here Ouſe, ſlow winding thro' a level plain
> Of ſpacious meads with cattle ſprinkled o'er,
> Conducts the eye along his ſinuous courſe
> Delighted. COWPER'S TASK.

The *Tame*, riſing in Hertfordſhire, croſſes from eaſt to weſt through Ayleſbury vale, in its way to Oxfordſhire.

Several other ſmall ſtreams flow through the county, and are uſeful in turning corn and paper mills.

With reſpect to the products of Buckinghamſhire,

hamſhire, barley is chiefly cultivated in the Chiltern; and great part of the Vale is devoted to the grazing of cattle and feeding of ſheep, which is a ſource of much opulence to the landholders. The dairies are principally employed in making butter for the ſupply of the metropolis. Fine wheat with other grain and beans are grown in the uplands. The wood of the hills, chiefly beech, is a conſiderable article of profit both as fuel and timber.

The manufacture of bone-lace is carried on to greater extent and perfection in this county than in any other; particularly in the town and neighbourhood of *Newport Pagnel*, which is a ſort of mart for that article, and flouriſhes conſiderably by its means. The paper manufacture is the other moſt important branch of commercial employment.

Buckingham is a decayed place, of little conſequence. It ſhares the privilege of holding the aſſizes with *Ayleſbury*. This laſt is the moſt populous town in the county, and the centre of the buſineſs of the rich Vale

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Vale. The inhabitants of this place and neighbourhood are in poſſeſſion of the art of rearing early ducklings, which is carried to ſuch an extent, that it is ſaid three thouſand pounds have been received at Ayleſbury for the ſupply of the London markets, in ſix weeks, uſually terminating in March.

The village of *Eton*, oppoſite to Windſor, is diſtinguiſhed by its college, or public ſchool, founded by king Henry VI. and the greateſt inſtitution of the kind in the kingdom.

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BEDFORDSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Huntingdonſhire and Northamptonſhire, on the weſt by Buckinghamſhire, on the ſouth by the ſame county and that of Hertford, and on the eaſt by the latter and that of Cambridge. Its limits are very winding and irregular; and its only natural ones are the Ouſe, for a ſhort ſpace, on the eaſt and weſt ſides: and a rivulet on the ſouth-weſt border. The utmoſt length of the county is thirty-five miles, and the greateſt breadth about twenty.

The face of the country in Bedfordſhire is in general varied with ſmall hills and vallies, and affords few extenſive level tracts. On the ſouth, the ridge of chalk hills riſes to a conſiderable height, and frequently projects abruptly into the vallies in a ſtriking manner. Under them is a large tract of hard ſteril land, which gives this part a dreary

dreary and uncomfortable appearance. Yet the chalky earth itſelf is uſed as a manure for other ſoils. From the ſouth-eaſtern corner to the middle of the country runs a line of good dairy land, which is terminated northwards by ſome ſandy hills. The weſtern ſide is for the moſt part flat and ſandy, and well cultivated in the Norfolk mode. Great quantities of beans are grown there. About Woburn, in the ſouth-weſt, are large tracts of deep barren ſand, capable of little improvement but from planting. The northern and eaſtern parts have in general a deep ſoil, which, when cultivated, produces large crops of corn; and is furniſhed with a conſiderable quantity of wood. Indeed the county in general abounds with parks about the ſeats of noblemen and gentlemen. A very large proportion of it is in open or common fields, which is a great diſcouragement to agricultural improvements.

The great river of the county, the *Ouſe*, enters it on the weſt from Buckinghamſhire;

and, taking a very winding courſe through fertile meadows, paſſes the town of Bedford, from which it becomes navigable, and makes its exit into Huntingdonſhire. The ſtream of this river is remarkably ſlow, except in time of floods, when it is liable to great inundations.

The Ouſe receives moſt of the ſmall ſtreams of Bedfordſhire, of which the largeſt is the *Ivel*, flowing from the ſouth by Biggleſwade, from whence it is navigable to the Ouſe.

The principal products of Bedfordſhire are corn and butter, much of the former of which is ſent down the Ouſe to Lynn, and of the latter goes to London by land carriage. Some pariſhes are famous for producing large quantities of garden-ſtuff, which ſupply the country round.

The moſt valuable mineral product of this county is fuller's earth, a kind of mixed clay, of great uſe in cleanſing woollen cloth from all oily and greaſy matters. It is dug out of pits in the neighbourhood of Woburn.

Bedfordſhire

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Bedfordſhire partakes leſs than moſt parts of the kingdom in the benefits of trade and manufactures. The poor have ſcarcely any other employment than a little lace-making, chiefly on the Buckinghamſhire ſide, which goes to the ſhopkeepers in exchange for goods; and a manufacture of ſtraw-plat made into hats, baſkets, and toys, in and about Dunſtable. Some of theſe hats are exported to Holland. Faſhion has lately very much favoured this manufacture.

Bedford, the county-town, is an ancient and tolerably populous place, which carries on a conſiderable trade in coals, timber, malt and corn, by means of its navigable river. It has a great number of poor inhabitants, invited by an eſtate left to the town within the precincts of London, the value of which is become very conſiderable. Their chief employment is lace-making.

Ampthill, a ſmall market-town, is noted for having been the reſidence of Catherine wife of Henry VIII. during the time her unjuſt divorce was in agitation. This event

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is commemorated by the following elegant inſcription by Mr. Fitzpatrick, on a column where the old caſtle ſtood:

In days of old, here Ampthill's tow'rs were ſeen,
The mournful refuge of an injur'd queen;
Here flow'd her pure, but unavailing, tears;
Here blinded zeal ſuſtain'd her ſinking years;
Yet Freedom hence her radiant banner wav'd,
And Love aveng'd a realm by prieſts enſlav'd;
From Catherine's wrongs a nation's bliſs was ſpread,
And Luther's light from Henry's lawleſs bed.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

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LINCOLNSHIRE.

THIS great county, the third with reſpect to ſize in the kingdom, is bounded on the north by Yorkſhire, from which it is in great part ſeparated by the Humber; on the eaſt by the German ocean, by that arm of the ſea called the Waſh, and by a part of Norfolk; on the weſt by the counties of Nottingham and Leiceſter; and on the ſouth by thoſe of Rutland, Northampton, and Cambridge. Its form is oblong, with a hunch or bow jutting into the ſea. Its length is full ſeventy miles, and greateſt breadth forty-five.

Lincolnſhire is divided into three diſtricts; thoſe of *Lindſey*, *Keſteven*, and *Holland*. Of theſe, *Lindſey* is much the largeſt, comprehending all the country from Foſſdike and the Witham northwards. It is, upon the whole, the higheſt part of this county, though without any eminence which deſerves the

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the name of a hill. Towards the north-eaſtern part is a large tract of heathy land, called the *Wolds*, of which the ſouthern portion is well inhabited, but the northern very thin of people. Great flocks of ſheep are bred throughout this tract. The north-weſtern part of Lindſey contains the river-iſland of *Axholm*, formed by the Trent, Dun, and Idle; a rich low tract, in which much flax is cultivated. Beſides the *Trent*, which firſt bounds and then croſſes a corner of this quarter, it has the rivulet of *Ankam*, noted for its fine eels, which empties itſelf into the Humber, and has lately been made navigable for ſloops as far as Glanford-bridge.

The diſtrict of *Keſteven* contains the weſtern part of the county, from the middle to the ſouthern extremity. It poſſeſſes variety of ſoil; but on the whole, though intermixed with large heaths, is a fertile country. The principal of theſe heaths are thoſe of Ancaſter and Lincoln, forming a very extenſive tract, which has however been

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been of late years in great part encloſed. A long ridge of high ground abruptly bounds it to the weſtward, beginning near Grantham, and continuing with little interruption, to the north of Lincoln. The chief river of Keſteven is the *Witham*; which, riſing in the ſouth-weſt corner, flows to Lincoln; and, making a ſemicircular ſweep, bends round to join the ſea below Boſton. It is a ſhallow ſtream, abounding greatly in pikes. From Lincoln it has a communication with the Trent, by means of a navigable canal called the *Foſſdike*, cut by king Henry I. and ſtill of great uſe in conveying away the corn, wool, and other commodities of the county.

Part of the fens are in the diſtrict of Keſteven; but the much greater part are in the remaining and ſmaller one of *Holland*, a country in nature as well as in appellation ſimilar to the province of the ſame name in the Dutch Netherlands. It occupies the ſouth-eaſtern quarter of Lincolnſhire, being contiguous to the ſhallow inlet of the ſea called

called the *Waſh*. Holland is divided into upper and lower; both of the diviſions entirely conſiſting of fens and marſhes; ſome in a ſtate of nature, but others cut by numberleſs drains and canals, and croſſed by raiſed cauſeways. The lower, or ſouthern, is the moſt watery, and is only preſerved from conſtant inundations by vaſt banks raiſed on the ſea-coaſt and rivers. The air of theſe tracts is bad and unwholeſome; and the water in general ſo brackiſh as to be unfit for internal purpoſes; whence the inhabitants are obliged to make reſervoirs of rain water. In ſummer, vaſt ſwarms of inſects fill the air, and prove a great nuiſance. Yet even here induſtry has produced comfort and opulence, by forming excellent paſture-land out of the ſwamps and bogs, and even making them capable of producing large crops of corn. The fens, too, in their native ſtate, are not without their utility; and afford various objects of curioſity to the naturaliſt. The reeds with which their waters are covered make the beſt of thatch,

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thatch, and are annually harveſted in great quantity for that purpoſe. Prodigious flocks of geeſe are bred among the undrained fens, forming a conſiderable object of commerce, as well for their quills and feathers, as for the bird itſelf, which is driven in great numbers to the London markets. The principal decoys in England for wild-ducks, teal, widgeon, and other fowls of the duck kind, are in theſe parts, and afford the chief ſupplies to the metropolis. Wild-geeſe, grebes, godwits, whimbrels, coots, ruffs and reeves, and a great variety of other ſpecies of water-fowl, breed here in amazing numbers, and obtain plentiful food from the fiſhy pools and ſtreams. Stares, or ſtarlings, during winter reſort in myriads to rooſt on the reeds, breaking them down by their weight. Near Spalding is the greateſt herony in England, where the herons build together on high trees like rooks. The avoſet, or yelper, diſtinguiſhed by its bill, which bends upwards, is found in great numbers about Foſſdike Waſh; as alſo thoſe

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thoſe delicate birds for the table, knots and dottrels.

From the above account of the different diſtricts, it will appear that it is with injuſtice Lincolnſhire in general is reckoned a low and fenny county. In fact, the uplands, open and incloſed, appear on calculation to be near double in extent to the incloſed and open marſhes or fens.

With reſpect to the general products of Lincolnſhire, its higher grounds yield grain of all ſorts in great abundance; and its lower, oats, hemp, flax, woad, and other articles of culture. But it is particularly diſtinguiſhed as a grazing county, and is remarkable for rearing all kinds of animals to the greateſt ſize and weight. Its horſes, horned-cattle, and ſheep, are all of the largeſt breed. The latter are clothed with a long thick wool, peculiarly fitted for the worſted and coarſe woollen manufactures, of which great quantities are ſent into Yorkſhire and other counties.

Lincolnſhire is not itſelf a manufacturing county

county (at leaſt only in a very ſmall degree), and indeed has declined from its ancient populouſneſs and conſequence. A principal reaſon of this is the ſingular decay of its ſea-ports, which, though formerly numerous, are now almoſt entirely choaked up with ſand, and ſome of them quite deſerted by the ocean. The long bow-like coaſt is fronted by ſand hills or ſalt marſhes; and, like thoſe in the Dutch provinces, ſecured from the waves by dykes: it is ſo low as to be viſible only to a ſmall diſtance from the ſea. The mouth of the Witham is now the ſole inlet fit for the purpoſes of navigation. Here is ſituated the port of the county.

Boſton, a conſiderable, thriving, and well-built town. Its harbour can only admit veſſels of inferior burthen. It has ſome trade to the Baltic, and a great exportation of oats to London. A navigation, partly natural, along the Witham, and partly by canal, goes from hence to Lincoln, at the termination of which, in Boſton, is a large

and curious ſluice. Another canal is cut to Bourn. The tower-ſteeple of Boſton is one of the moſt lofty and elegant ſtructures of the kind, and is a noted ſea-mark. Some of the beſt grazing grounds in the county lie round Boſton; and, in the new encloſures near it, vaſt crops of oats are grown.

Lincoln, the capital, is an ancient ill-built city, greatly ſunk from its former ſtate, when it was one of the moſt conſiderable places in the kingdom. Its large cathedral is much admired for its inſide architecture, which is in the richeſt and lighteſt gothic ſtyle. The chief trade of Lincoln is in coals, brought by the Trent and Foſſdike. Along the Witham, oats and wool are principally ſent. There is a ſmall manufactory of camlets at Lincoln.

Gainſborough, on the Trent, is a river-port of ſome conſequence, being acceſſible to veſſels of ſize ſufficient to navigate the ſea. It ſerves as a place of export and import for the northern part of the county.

Louth,

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Louth, a handſome well-inhabited town, has a new navigation by means of its brook, the Lud, to the ſea at Tetney creek.

Horncaſtle is noted for its horſe fairs, at which a great number of carriage horſes, bred in Yorkſhire, and kept for ſome time in that neighbourhood, are ſold to the London dealers.

Stamford, ſituated at the moſt ſouthern point of the county, is a large old town, which formerly, for a ſhort time, poſſeſſed an univerſity. The Welland is made navigable from hence.

Spalding, near the mouth of the Welland, from its neatneſs, and the canals in its ſtreets, reſembles a Dutch town. The river here is ſo full of ſhoals, that barges can only get up at ſpring tides. Much hemp and flax is grown in its neighbourhood and ſold in its market.

Crowland exhibits the remains of a very celebrated abbey, founded by religious zeal in the midſt of a ſhaking fen. In general it may be remarked, that the religious edifices

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of theſe ſenny tracts are remarkably ſtately and handſome ſtone buildings, though there is not a quarry within the ſpace of a great many miles.

The great arm of the ſea called the *Waſh*, or *Waſhes*, is paſſable at low water; but not without ſome danger from quickſands, as was fatally experienced by King John, who, in the Barons' wars, here loſt all his carriages and camp equipage with many men.

Within theſe ſeven years great numbers of ſpinning ſchools have been eſtabliſhed in the ſouthern parts of Lincolnſhire by the patriotiſm of ſeveral perſons of rank, whence conſiderable quantities of worſted yarn are made in the county from wool that uſed to be ſent away unwrought, in the fleece. The ſame perſons have promoted the wearing of ſtuffs manufactured within the county.

HUNTINGDON-

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

This ſmall county is almoſt encloſed by Cambridgeſhire and Northamptonſhire; the former of which bounds it on the north-eaſt and part of the ſouth, the latter on the north and weſt. The remainder is bounded by Bedfordſhire. The river Nen, and the canals, or dykes, joining it to the Ouſe, form its limits on the north and north-eaſt. The Ouſe, at its entrance, ſeparates it for a ſhort ſpace from Bedfordſhire; and, at its exit, from Cambridgeſhire. The figure of this county is ſo irregular as ſcarcely to afford a proper meaſurement; but reckoning from its furtheſt projections, it does not exceed twenty-four miles each way; and, in general, is of much leſs extent.

The face of the country has three varieties. The borders of the *Ouſe*, which flows acroſs the ſouth-eaſtern part, conſiſt of a tract of moſt fertile and beautiful meadows; of which

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Port-holm-mead near Huntingdon, almoſt encloſed by a bend of the river, is particularly celebrated. The middle and weſtern parts are finely varied in their ſurface, fruitful in corn, and ſprinkled with woods. The whole upland part, in ancient times, was a foreſt, and peculiarly adapted for the chaſe; whence the name of the county took its riſe.

The north-eaſtern part conſiſts of fens, which join thoſe of Ely. Part of theſe are drained ſo as to afford rich paſturage for cattle, and even large crops of corn. In the midſt of them are ſome ſhallow pools, abounding with fiſh. The largeſt of theſe is a lake of conſiderable ſize called *Whittle-ſea Meer*. The fen lands are computed at about a fifth of the whole extent of the county.

Huntingdonſhire is a farming county, and poſſeſſes no manufacture but a little wool-ſtapling, and the ſpinning of yarn. Its principal towns are ſituated on the Ouſe.

Huntingdon, the capital, is of moderate ſize,

ſize, and neatly built; but has formerly been much more conſiderable than at preſent. It was the birth-place of that very famous and extraordinary perſon, the uſurper, Oliver Cromwell.

Acroſs the river from this town lies *Godmancheſter*, a large village, noted from ancient times for its wealthy farmers.

Saint Ives, lower down the river, is a good market-town, which makes and exports large quantities of malt. Its markets and fairs for live cattle are ſome of the greateſt in England.

At *Ramſey*, on the edge of the fens, was formerly a very rich abbey, built, like that of Crowland, in the midſt of a bog. The ſituation of theſe, and of various other religious houſes (as thoſe of Ely and Thorney) was probably choſen as well with a view to ſecurity from the difficulty of approach, as to the plenty of fiſh and water-fowl inhabiting theſe watery retreats.

Kimbolton-caſtle was the place where Ca-

therine, the divorced wife of Henry VIII. ended her days in a peaceful retirement.

The village of *Stilton* gives name to a very rich and delicate kind of cheese, which, however, is said not to be the product of its neighbourhood, but that of Melton-Mowbray in Leicestershire.

CAMBRIDGE-

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CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THIS county has to the north-weſt Lincolnſhire; to the north-eaſt Norfolk; to the eaſt Suffolk; to the ſouth Eſſex and Hertfordſhire; to the weſt Bedfordſhire, Huntingdonſhire, and a point of Northamptonſhire. Its limits, for all the northern half, are rivers and their communicating branches, ſo intermixed as with difficulty to be traced: the ſouthern half has an indented and undiſtinguiſhed boundary line on the adjacent counties. Its figure ſomewhat reſembles that of the human ear, the county of Huntingdon cutting deeply into its weſtern ſide by a circular projection. Its greateſt length is near fifty miles: its breadth, at the ſouthern and wideſt extremity, above twenty-five.

Cambridgeſhire is divided into two parts by the river Ouſe. The moſt northerly is chiefly compoſed of the *iſle of Ely*, a ſeparate diſtrict,

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diſtrict, poſſeſſing juriſdiction within itſelf. This is a ſenny tract, in which a few elevated ſpots appear ſcattered, like iſlands, in the midſt of low and level marſhes. The principal of theſe is that on which the city of Ely is placed. All the low grounds are naturally a bog, formed by the ſtagnation of water from the overflowing rivers of this tract; but, by infinite labour and expence in cutting drains and raiſing banks, much of them has been rendered either rich meadows, proper for the fattening of cattle, or arable land, covered eſpecially with ſome of the fineſt oats in the kingdom. The principal of the drains are the *Bedford old and new rivers*, which run navigable in a ſtraight line upwards of twenty miles acroſs the county, from the great to the little Ouſe. Of this work Dyer gives the following poetical account:

——————— *Bedford Level*, erſt
A dreary pathleſs waſte, the coughing flock
Was wont with hairy fleeces to deform;
And, ſmiling with her lure of ſummer-flowers,

The

The heavy ox, vain-ſtruggling, to ingulph;
Till one of that high honour'd patriot name,
Ruſſel, aroſe, who drain'd the ruſhy fen,
Confin'd the waves, bid groves and gardens bloom,
And, through his new creation, led the Ouſe
And gentle Camus, ſilver-winding ſtreams.

FLEECE.

The general nature and products of the Ely fens are the ſame with thoſe of Lincolnſhire, which they join. Their air and water are bad; and though the ſoil is rich, and in dry years very productive, they are ſtill ſubject to frequent inundations; and the farmer is occaſionally liable to loſe all the labour of his year. The fenny country extends ſouth of the Ouſe, and even runs up to the neighbourhood of Cambridge.

The ſouth-weſtern part of the county is the moſt agreeable, being raiſed in its ſurface, and watered by the *Cam*, a ſmall river, riſing in Hertfordſhire, which, after waſhing Cambridge, near which town it receives the *Granta*, falls into the Ouſe above Ely. Much fine barley grows in theſe parts, which

which is malted, and exported in large quantities. *Cottenham*, near Cambridge, is celebrated for a ſort of large thin cheeſes made there and in the neighbouring villages. Its ſuperiority is not owing to any particular management in the dairies, but to the nature of the herbage on the commons. The ſuckling of calves for the London market is alſo carried on there to advantage. The butter of Cambridge is peculiarly excellent.

The ſouth-eaſtern part, from *Gogmagog-hills* to Newmarket, is an open and heathy country, thinly inhabited and bleak, being connected with that vaſt tract of land, which, extending ſouthwards into Eſſex, and northwards acroſs Suffolk into Norfolk, forms one of the largeſt plains in the kingdom. The ſoil here is lean and gravelly. The beſt parts produce light crops of barley; but much of it is only uſed as ſheep-walks. The kinds of ſheep kept here are chiefly the Norfolk and Weſt-country. In ſome of the pariſhes on the borders of Eſſex ſaffron is cultivated. At *Cherry-hinton* at the foot of

of the Gogmagog-hills, are great chalk pits, noted for the marine productions they contain, and for the many rare plants growing in their vicinity.

Cambridge, the capital of the county, is a populous but ill-built town; rendered however ſufficiently famous by its Univerſity to diſpenſe with other diſtinctions. This ancient ſeminary of learning, inferior in extent and opulence to Oxford, but its rival in literary fame, contains ſixteen colleges and halls, and many public edifices, of antique and modern conſtruction. The numerous objects of curioſity in this Univerſity, and the great characters it has produced, would furniſh ample matter for a volume, and therefore cannot be properly touched upon here.

The town carries on a conſiderable trade by means of its navigable river. Near it is annually held one of the greateſt fairs in England for all ſorts of commodities, called *Stourbridge* or *Sturbich fair*, under the juriſdiction of the Univerſity.

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The city of *Ely* is a mean place, and chiefly remarkable for its fine cathedral. The biſhop exerciſes temporal juriſdiction over the city and in the iſle, much in the ſame manner as the biſhop of Durham in his dioceſe. Ely, and its diſtrict, from its ſituation, has frequently held out a long time againſt foreign and domeſtic foes; and particularly was the laſt place in the kingdom which ſubmitted to William the Conqueror. Much garden ſtuff is produced here, and ſent to the towns around. The barley grown around it is of a ſuperior quality. The white bricks made at Ely are celebrated, and a large quantity of coarſe pottery is made of the ſame clay.

Wiſbeach is a well-built town, poſſeſſing a conſiderable trade in the export of corn, and of oil preſſed from ſeeds at mills in its neighbourhood. Only barges can come up its river, larger veſſels ſtopping ſix miles below.

Newmarket, ſituated partly in this county, and partly in Suffolk, is the moſt celebrated place in England for horſe races, for which

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its extenſive and finely turfed heath is peculiarly adapted. Charles II. built a ſeat here for the ſake of this diverſion. At the different ſtables in the town are conſtantly kept numbers of the fleeteſt horſes in the world, trained and exerciſed for the courſe. The farmers around make great advantage of their oats and hay from the demand which this creates.

NORFOLK.

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NORFOLK.

THIS county is terminated on the north and north-eaſt by the German ocean; on the ſouth and ſouth-eaſt by Suffolk; on the weſt by the Lincolnſhire Waſhes, and by part of that county and of Cambridgeſhire. It is almoſt entirely inſulated by the ſea, and by the rivers which form its internal boundary. Its figure is very compact, preſenting an almoſt unbroken convexity to the ocean, and a convex line, ſomewhat indented, to the land; thus forming a pretty exact oval, of which the diameter from north to ſouth meaſures forty-five miles; that from eaſt to weſt about ſeventy.

The face of the country in this large ſpace varies leſs than in moſt tracts of equal extent in the kingdom. Not a ſingle hill of moderate height is to be ſeen in the whole county; yet, in many parts, its ſurface is broken into gentle ſwells and depreſſions.

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At the weſtern extremity, adjoining the counties of Cambridge and Lincoln, is a conſiderable tract of flat fenny land; and on the eaſt, near Yarmouth, a narrow tract of marſhes runs from the ſea to ſome diſtance up the country. Some marſh land likewiſe lies upon the northern coaſt, near Cley. Several of the weſtern hundreds from Thetford northwards, are open and bare, conſiſting of extenſive heaths, the ſoil of which is a light ſand or hungry gravel. The reſt of the county in general is arable land, varying in its degrees of fertility. To the north-eaſt, the ſoil is a light ſandy loam, fertile and remarkably eaſy of tillage. The ſouth-eaſt has a moiſter and deeper ſoil. The middle and ſouth abound in clay; and various parts yield chalk and marl. The proportion of arable land is larger than in moſt counties, being computed at two thirds of the whole. The northern and eaſtern parts are all encloſed, and being richer in timber than moſt of the maritime parts of the iſland, afford many cheerful and plea-

ſant views, though none very extenſive or romantic.

The products of the county vary according to the ſoil and ſituation. The lighter arable lands produce barley in great plenty, much of which is malted and exported. Wheat is cultivated in the ſtronger ſoils. But the article for which Norfolk is particularly celebrated is turnips, which are more generally grown here than in any other part of the kingdom, and form the baſis of the Norfolk huſbandry. The peculiar excellence of this culture is, that the ground never lies fallow, as the turnips ſerve to prepare it for corn. This root is principally uſed for the fattening of cattle, of which great numbers, bred in Scotland and other parts, are fed in this county for the London and country markets. Crops of clover or other artificial graſſes are generally taken alternately with the turnips. Much buckwheat is alſo grown in the light ſoils of Norfolk, and uſed for feeding ſwine and poultry.

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The fenny parts yield great quantities of butter, which is ſent to London under the name of Cambridge butter. The ſheep of Norfolk are a hardy, active, and rather ſmall breed, and much valued for their mutton. Their wool is chiefly uſed in the Yorkſhire cloths. Great numbers of the lambs are ſold out of the county. Turkeys are reared here to a larger ſize than elſewhere, and form a conſiderable object of profit to the ſmaller farmers. Rabbits are extremely numerous on the ſandy heaths in various parts. This county is likewiſe celebrated for game, eſpecially pheaſants, which abound in ſome manors where they are preſerved, ſo as to prove a great nuiſance to the farmer.

No greater proof of the induſtry and good huſbandry of Norfolk need be produced, than an eſtimate of the value of the ſeveral articles of its own growth which it ſends out of the county. By a calculation as exact as could be formed, the exported grain of various kinds, flour, and malt, are of the annual value of more than £.900,000, and

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that of the other proviſion articles (reckoning only the profit of *fattening* foreign bred cattle), and of the wool, is about £.225,000 more. The value of manufactures and fiſheries is not included in this eſtimate. It is moreover to be conſidered that the county in general is far from being naturally one of the moſt fertile.

The principal rivers of Norfolk are, the *Great Ouſe*; which, after forming a part of its ſouth-weſtern boundary, croſſes the weſtern ſide, and falls into the ſea below Lynn.

The *Nen*, forming the weſtern boundary, and emptying into the Lincolnſhire Waſh. It communicates by ſeveral channels with the Ouſe.

The *Little Ouſe* riſes about the middle of the Suffolk border; and ſeparating the two counties as it flows weſtward, empties itſelf into the Great Ouſe. It is navigable from Thetford.

The ſource of the *Waveney* is ſeparated from that of the Ouſe only by a cauſeway. It runs in a contrary direction; and, forming the

the reſt of the Suffolk boundary, at length joins the Yare a little above Yarmouth. It is navigable from Bungay.

The *Yare*, riſing near Attleborough, joins the *Wenſum* and other ſmall ſtreams at and near Norwich, and, becoming navigable there, flows to Yarmouth; and, having received the Waveney and Bure, diſcharges itſelf into the German ocean below that town.

The *Bure*, joined by other ſtreams from the north-eaſt, meets the Yare in Yarmouth. It is navigable up its ſeveral branches to Aylſham, North Walſham, and other places.

Of theſe ſmall rivers it may be obſerved, that, flowing through a nearly level country, their ſtreams are ſlow, and they frequently diffuſe themſelves over the lower tracts in their courſe, forming ſhallow lakes, here called *Broads*, which are plentifully ſtored with fiſh and water-fowl. On ſome of them are decoys for wild-duks. The rivers are eaſily rendered navigable, and much reſemble canals.

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The ſea-coaſt of Norfolk is formed either by clayey cliffs, continually a prey to the ocean, or by low ſandy ſhores, covered with looſe pebbles (called *ſhingle)* and frequently riſing into a kind of natural bank compoſed of ſand held together by the root of the ſea-reed-graſs. Behind theſe ſand hills are in various parts ſalt marſhes of conſiderable extent, occaſionally inundated by the tides, which find entrance through gaps between the hillocks. *Hunſtanton cliff* at the mouth of the Waſh, is the only rocky eminence on the coaſt. Various ſmall ports are made on the northern ſide by creeks and little bays, but they can only admit ſmall veſſels, and are continually filling up with ſand. Banks of ſand lie off at ſea from the Norfolk coaſt in various parts, which are the dread of the coaſting mariners, and occaſion frequent ſhipwrecks. Of theſe, the moſt remarkable, running parallel to the coaſt of Yarmouth, form the celebrated *Yarmouth roads*, a great reſort for ſhipping, which ride there ſecurely, though the entrance is difficult and hazardous.

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The county of Norfolk has long been one of the beſt peopled tracts in England, which is proved by the number of its pariſhes, exceeding that of every other county in the kingdom, though in ſize it is only about the eighth. Its large towns, however, are few, as its manufactures and trade are confined to a ſmall ſpace.

The city of *Norwich* is one of the moſt populous in England, and long took the lead in point of conſequence among the inland towns. For this it was indebted to its great manufactory of crapes, bombazines, and ſtuffs of various kinds, which is ſtill conſiderable, though ſomewhat declined on account of the rivalſhip of the cotton branches, and in conſequence of prohibitions in foreign countries. The preſent ſtaple articles of the Norwich trade are fine camlets, worſted-damaſks, and flowered ſatins. Its ſhawls have lately had a great ſale. The manufacture is confined to the city; but the operations of ſpinning and preparing the wool employ the poor of moſt of the ſmall towns

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and villages in the county. The wool uſed is brought from the counties of Lincoln, Leiceſter, and Northampton. The goods are ſent to various parts of the world, particularly Holland, Germany, Ruſſia, and the Mediterranean. Many of them are ſhipped at Yarmouth; and many are ſent to London and other places by land. Norwich contains many opulent inhabitants and good buildings, but its ſtreets are narrow and ill diſpoſed, and its proportion of poor is uncommonly great. It abounds with pariſh churches, and has ſeveral remains of antiquity, though not of an early date.

Yarmouth has long been known as one of the principal ſea-ports in England; and though from the fluctuation of trade ſeveral newer ones have outſtripped it in buſineſs, it ſtill retains conſiderable conſequence in its double capacity of a port and a fiſhing town. By means of its rivers it enjoys all the import and export trade of Norwich, and various places on that ſide of Norfolk and Suffolk. To them it conveys coal, timber,

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and foreign products; and by its means are exported their corn and malt in vaſt quantities, and their manufactured goods. Its harbour will not admit ſhips of large burthen, but is extremely convenient for buſineſs, the veſſels lying in the river along a very extenſive and beautiful quay. The foreign trade of this port is chiefly to the Baltic, Holland, Portugal, and the Mediterranean. It alſo ſends ſhips to the Greenland fiſhery. The home fiſhing is carried on at two ſeaſons; that for mackerel in May and June, and that for herring in October and November. The latter is the moſt conſiderable; and, beſides the boats belonging to the town, many cobles from the Yorkſhire coaſt, hired for the purpoſe, are employed in it. The mackerel are ſent either up the country by land carriage, or to London by ſea. The herrings are chiefly cured here by ſalting and then drying in wood ſmoke; when, under the name of *red herrings*, they are either conſumed at home, or exported to Spain, Italy, and other

ſouthern

ſouthern countries. Yarmouth is much frequented in the ſeaſon as a place for ſea-bathing.

The other great inlet and outlet to this county is *Lynn*, or *King's Lynn*, at the mouth of the Ouſe, a populous and flouriſhing place, which, notwithſtanding a bad harbour, carries on a large trade by means of its inland communications. By the Ouſe, and its aſſociated rivers, it ſupplies moſt of the midland counties with coals, timber, and wine; and in return exports corn and malt in very great quantities. It alſo partakes in the Greenland fiſhery. Its annual *mart*, or fair, is much reſorted to by the country round. The air of Lynn is unwholeſome on account of its vicinity to the fens.

The ports on the northern ſide of the county are *Blakeney* and *Cley*, on the ſame creek, and *Wells* at a ſmall diſtance. From theſe are exported conſiderable quantities of corn and malt produced in the neighbourhood, and coals and other articles are imported.

Thetford,

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Thetford, now an inconſiderable town, was once a biſhoprick, and ſtill exhibits the ruins of its former greatneſs. It has ſome corn trade to Lynn. Upon the wide naked heaths in its neighbourhood are ſometimes to be met with flocks of the buſtard, a bird now become very rare in England.

This county, with the eaſtern ones in general, was the ſcene of many military tranſactions and ravages in the times of the Daniſh incurſions; but had fortunately little ſhare in the diſaſtrous events of more modern times. One of its moſt remarkable occurrences in the later reigns was the inſurrection of the oppreſſed peaſants headed by one Kett, in the time of Edward VI. This roſe to ſo formidable a height, that an army was found neceſſary to quell it, which defeated the inſurgents with great ſlaughter on Mouſehold heath, near Norwich.

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SUFFOLK.

THIS county has on the north Norfolk; on the eaſt the German ocean; on the ſouth Eſſex; on the weſt Cambridgeſhire. The rivers Waveney and Little Ouſe form its northern limits; and the Stour, almoſt the whole of its ſouthern. To the north-weſt it is bounded by the Larke and another ſmall ſtream; the reſt of its weſtern limit is undiſtinguiſhable. In ſhape it is ſomewhat like a creſcent, being hollowed in the middle of its northern ſide by Norfolk, and riſing at each end of that ſide, eſpecially the eaſtern, where it forms a hook running up to Yarmouth. Its diameter from north to ſouth is about thirty miles; from eaſt to weſt fifty-eight.

Suffolk is in general a level country, without any conſiderable eminences. In reſpect to ſoil it may be divided into three portions. The ſea-coaſt, to ſome diſtance inland, is for

for the moſt part ſandy, and is diſtributed into arable land, heaths, and marſhes. The arable produces excellent barley; and towards the ſouth-eaſt great quantities of carrots are grown. The heaths afford extenſive ſheep-walks; and the marſhes feed numbers of cattle. The ſoil has in many parts been much improved by ſhell-marl, (called here *crag)* of which vaſt beds have been diſcovered, particularly in the neighbourhood of Woodbridge. The ſea ſhore is chiefly compoſed of loamy cliffs, which are continually falling down, undermined by the waves. Hence great changes have been effected on this coaſt; and ſome towns, once conſiderable, as *Dunwich* and *Aldborough*, have been almoſt waſhed away by the ſea. About Orfordneſs there are various ſalt-water creeks and inlets, which form extenſive marſhes.

The internal and largeſt part of the county, from north to ſouth, and acroſs quite to the ſouth-weſt angle, is in general a ſtrong clayey loam, fertile to a great degree in all the

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the objects of husbandry. A part of it, called *high Suffolk*, has a soil so stiff and tenacious, that its roads in wet seasons are scarcely passable. The great product of this tract is butter, which is exported to London and other parts in great quantities. Much cheese too is made here; but, as it is only supplementary to the butter, it has gained, almost proverbially, the character of the worst in England. Besides grain of all sorts, beans are grown abundantly in the middle parts of Suffolk; and quantities of cabbages are raised for the food of cows. Hemp is likewise cultivated to a considerable extent, and spun and woven on the spot into cloth of various degrees of fineness. Some hops are grown in the vicinity of Stow-market.

The north-western portion of Suffolk is an open sandy country, and forms a considerable part of the wide tract of barren heath which occupies so much of this quarter of the kingdom. It is chiefly in warrens and sheep-walks, but interspersed with poor arable land. The extreme angle, bordering on the Ely fens, partakes of their nature.

On

On the whole, this county is one of the moſt thriving with reſpect to agriculture, and its farmers are opulent and ſkilful. The culture of turnips prevails here almoſt as much as in Norfolk. They have a very excellent breed of draught horſes, middle ſized, and remarkably ſhort-made, capable of vaſt exertions. The Suffolk cows are ſuppoſed to give more milk in proportion to their ſize than any other in England. They are of the hornleſs or polled kind. The ſheep, of which large flocks are kept, are chiefly of the Norfolk breed.

Of the rivers in Suffolk, the *Waveney* and *Little Ouſe* have been mentioned under Norfolk.

The *Stour* on the ſouthern boundary is the moſt conſiderable, riſing on the weſtern border, and, after paſſing Sudbury and Manningtree, falling into the ſea at Harwich. Juſt at its mouth it meets the *Orwell*, an arm of the ſea running up to Ipſwich; at which town it receives the *Gipping*, a ſmall river riſing in the centre of the county, above Stow-market.

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The *Deben* riſes near Debenham, and flows to Woodbridge, where it expands into a long narrow arm of the ſea, and enters the ocean a very little to the north of Harwich-haven.

The *Larke*, riſing in the ſouth-weſt, runs by Bury, becoming navigable a mile below that town; and, paſſing Mildenhall, joins the Great Ouſe near the north-weſt angle of the county.

Suffolk was formerly as diſtinguiſhed for its trade and manufactures, as for its agriculture; but theſe have for many years been on the decline.

One of the firſt ſeats of the Flemings, who were brought over by Edward III. to teach the Engliſh the art of manufacturing their own wool, was *Sudbury*; and the town, in conſequence, became very populous and opulent. Its trade is now in great part diverted into other channels, having left behind it the burthen of a numerous poor. However, many kinds of thin ſtuffs are ſtill made here; particularly ſays, bunting for

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navy colours, and burial crapes. Some of the neighbouring towns, eſpecially *Needham-market* and *Lavenham*, participate in this manufacture; and the poor throughout the whole county are employed in making worſted yarn. The manufactured goods are chiefly ſent to London.

Ipſwich, the county town, is a place of great antiquity, but declined from its former conſequence. Its manufactures of broad cloth and canvas are at an end; and its preſent commerce chiefly depends upon the malting and exportation of corn. It has a conſiderable coaſting trade and a ſmall ſhare of foreign commerce, and has lately ſent ſhips to Greenland. Veſſels of large burthen are obliged to ſtop ſome diſtance below the town. Ipſwich is populous and well inhabited, though irregularly built.

Woodbridge is a ſmall port, poſſeſſing a ſhare of the coaſting trade. Fine ſalt is made here; and much lime is burned from foſſil ſea-ſhells.

Southwold alſo makes a ſalt much eſ-

teemed, and has an exportation of corn. Its bay, commonly called Solebay, was the ſcene of a great ſea-fight in 1672, between the Dutch commanded by De Ruyter, and the Engliſh by the Duke of York, in which victory remained undecided.

Loweſtoffe, built on a cliff above the ſea at the moſt eaſterly point of Great Britain, largely partakes with Yarmouth in the mackerel and herring fiſheries; and is conſiderably frequented as a place for ſea-bathing. A manufactory of coarſe china is eſtabliſhed here.

On the weſtern ſide of the county lies the handſome town of *St. Edmund's Bury*, a ſort of capital to the many genteel families reſiding in that neighbourhood. It is a place of great antiquity, and poſſeſſed an extremely wealthy abbey, of which ſome fine remains are yet extant. The preſent trade of Bury conſiſts in making worſted yarn. It has a great annual fair, at which large quantities of various commodities are ſold.

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